

In Loving Memory

A portrait of Gwendolyn M. Baker, an elderly Black woman with short, curly grey hair, wearing black-rimmed glasses and a multi-strand pearl necklace. She is wearing a white lace top. The background is a soft-focus field of pink roses. A large, vibrant pink rose is in the foreground on the left side.

Gwendolyn M. Baker

OCT 4, 1944 – JAN 29, 2025

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 08, 2025

WAKE: 10:00 AM – FUNERAL: 11:00 AM

SECOND LAKEVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

893 EAST 123RD STREET - CLEVELAND, OH 44108



Obituary

Gwendolyn Marie "Nina" Baker was born on October 4, 1944 in Beckley, West Virginia. She transcended from earth on January 29, 2025. She was preceded in death by her parents James and Esther Kirkpatrick, her brother James Jr.

Gwendolyn accepted Christ at an early age in her childhood church in Beckley, West Virginia. She attended the Beckley School system and graduated from Stratton High School in 1962. At Stratton she honed her culinary craft in her home economics classes, and met her husband Robert Baker. In 1967 she would move to Cleveland, Ohio where she raised six beautiful children Robi (Greg Sr), Robert Jr, Anthony Sr, Darrian Sr (NiQuita), Amia (Larry), and Norwyn. The family was raised at Starlight Baptist Church where they were members.

Gwendolyn loved listening and dancing to the nostalgic music of her youth. One of her biggest joys was hosting and cooking for her family. She was revered for her famous pies that all the family would come running to get when she made them.

She spent many days watching her favorite country westerns and supporting her Cleveland sports teams. She took immense pride in raising her grandchildren (Greg, DeJuan, Robert Jr, Steven, Brittany, Mya, Anthony Jr, Tianna, Anabella, Anastasia, Teaire, Darria, Nia, Darrian Jr, Nyree), and her great grandchildren.

Gwendolyn's greatest job was raising her children and grandchildren. She took pride in her work as a cafeteria aide, and being an active president of her children's PTA at Longfellow Elementary. She received a certification as a key punch operator to begin her career at Atlas Bolt and Screw.

Later in life Gwendolyn became a nurse's aid at various agencies in the Cleveland area. She would ultimately retire from Cleveland State as an environmental assistant. In her retirement years she would spend it raising her grandchildren and pouring love into her family.

Special thanks to the loved ones she acquired throughout her beautiful life, Rosemary Thompson, Vicky Jones, Mary Jones, Donnie Brown, Kenneth Baker (Carla), Darlene Brooks, Chris and Pat Walls, Joe Gaston, and Franklin Rogers.





I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid, you see.
I took His hand when I heard Him call;
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way;
I've now found peace at the end of the day.

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joys.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss;
Oh yes, these things, I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow
Look for the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much;
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seems all to brief;
Don't lengthen your pain with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts and peace to thee,
God wanted me now; He set me free.

She was the most beautiful West Virginia steel magnolia,
The best representation of God's creation. Letting love lead
and the heart takeover, Radiant beams of beautiful light,
Poured into hearts as she squeezed you tight.

She wasn't even 5 feet tall, But could make giants
crumble. From cheek kisses, smiles,
And "hey baby" as her eyes locked on you,
The definition of love and compassion, Love put in action.

Thanksgiving feasts that took 5 Dave's trips,
But it was love she was crafting.
"Raw hide" and "Gunsmoke" playing
as her background anthem,
But the television could never capture the realism
Of all the love and the laughter.

It was beauty in her exuberance, And the brightest eyes,
Watching her family by her side,
No matter what happened.
She loved us with so much heart,
Even a cardiologist couldn't fathom,
How a West Virginia woman
could give so much love through her actions.

So as God starts fitting you for the wings you deserve,
And prepare you to be a guardian angel,
To keep peace on this earth,
I thank God you don't have to live with hurt,
And your burdens can be lifted,
Through ascension from the world.
Let heaven play the temptations,
Fixing the place you deserve.

I want you to know on behalf of everybody,
We all loved you, We all loved you,
More than anything in this world. And I hope in heaven,
Truly I hope in heaven, You get everything you deserve.

Services of Comfort entrusted to:

Watson's Funeral Home

www.WatsonsFuneralHome.com

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