



Mrs. Gail Ann Aiken

May 4, 1959 - July 24, 2018

Gail Ann Aiken, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend departed this life peacefully on Tuesday, July 24, 2018, while surrounded in love by her family. Born on May 4, 1959 to Josephine Wardlaw (deceased) and Ashber Anderson, Jr. in Greenwood, S.C., she was raised by her grandparents, Blanche and Ashber Anderson, Sr. (deceased). At an early age, Gail committed her life to Jesus Christ. She joined her home church, Good Hope Baptist. Gail graduated from Greenwood High School, attended the University of South Carolina, and earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Business from York College of the City University of New York. Upon completion of her education, Gail was employed by IBM Corporation. On June 30, 1979, she married her life-long partner, Bennie Aiken, and to this blessed union, three daughters were born.

Gail Aiken had a passion for exemplary service to her Lord, family, and community. While balancing her career with raising a family, Gail also remained actively involved in numerous civic organizations, with an emphasis on youth enrichment and sickle cell disease awareness. These included: PTSA local president and national life-member, Girl Scouts leader, Durham Sickle Cell Support Group member/leader, Duke University SCD Research Team member, Bridges Pointe Foundation, President. In 2016, Gail achieved a long-awaited dream of founding her own non-profit organization, Full of H.O.P.E.S., with a mission of providing support and assistance to patients with

chronic diseases. All of Gail's efforts were rooted in love, especially her love for God. At St. Joseph, Gail very actively served with love. This service included various capacities in the Women's Missionary Society; Director, Young People's Division; Stewardess Board; Class Leader; Sunday School secretary; and many other ministries in the church. Gail Aiken was a spiritual leader and role-model for many at St. Joseph, especially the youth, where she demonstrated extraordinary dedication to her church and a profound love for the Lord.

Gail was known to all as a sweet, warm, and compassionate Christian woman. Top priority, second only to her Lord, was her family. She instilled a strong work ethic, confidence, and a passion for excellence in her children, reminding them that they could do all things through Christ. Love radiated from her eyes and her smiling face would illuminate any room. She was a pillar of strength and the solid rock of her family.

She leaves countless precious memories for her husband, Bennie; children, Adrienne (Rashad) of Durham, N.C., Jessica (Travis) of Kannapolis, N.C., and Suzette of Philadelphia, P.A.; two grandsons, Alexander Jacob and Aiden Josiah; father, Ashber Anderson, Jr. (Jonell); two brothers, Kirk Anderson of Greenwood, S.C., and Alfonza Anderson of Detroit, M.I.; four sisters, Brenda Ragland of Columbus, O.H., Darlene Saxon (Lonnie) of Greenwood, S.C., Fran Wright of Greenville, S.C., and Tonya Anderson of Detroit, M.I.; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws, and numerous other relatives and friends.

Cemetery Details

Beechwood Cemetery

3300 Fayetteville St
Durham, NC 27707
(919) 560-4154

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 28. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Joseph AME Church
2521 Fayetteville St
Durham, NC 27707
(919) 683-1379

Celebration of Life

JUL 28. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Joseph AME Church
2521 Fayetteville St
Durham, NC 27707
(919) 683-1379

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Gail Ann Aiken*

October 05, 2023 at 11:31 AM



“ *Mrs. Aiken touched so many lives and I am truly grateful for the love and nurturing she showed us through the YPD years and beyond. Adrienne, Jessica, Suzette, and Mr Aiken, I am praying your continued strength and peace. She forever remains in our hearts and fond memories.*

*Love,
Janeen Harrell*

Janeen Harrell - July 31, 2018 at 07:15 PM



“ *To Mr. Aiken, Adrienne, Jessica, Suzette, and extended family: We offer sympathy and love to you all. May you always find warmth in your priceless memories, and peace in this incredibly difficult time.*

*With YPD love,
Janelle Shumate & family*

Janelle (Harrell) Shumate - July 28, 2018 at 10:59 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mrs. Gail Ann Aiken.*



July 28, 2018 at 09:40 AM

JD

“ *To Bennie and Children: Our thoughts are with you and your family at this sorrowful time. We cannot be there with you but our thoughts and prayers are. We remember Gail as a loving, kind person and the news of her death really saddened us. Please remember what God's word says; he will not put anymore on us than we can bear, although, I'm sure you feel this is more than you can bear, please trust in God and stand on his word. We love you and continue to pray for you. With all our love, your cousins in South Carolina, Kathy, Reginal, Regina, Janice and David Davis.*

Janice Davis - July 28, 2018 at 01:51 AM

LN

“ *May God's peace be with you. Cherish the memories you created with Gail. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Lloyd .E Inman Jr., Raleigh, NC - July 27, 2018 at 05:33 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Gail Ann Aiken.*



July 27, 2018 at 01:20 PM

PC

“ *May you find comfort and strength during this difficult time. **Sending hugs and prayers***



Portia L. (Charita's cousin) - July 27, 2018 at 11:12 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Gail Ann Aiken.*



July 26, 2018 at 11:24 PM



“ *We will always remember and admire Gail's beautiful life of love for God and her unassuming service and kindness that have blessed so many. We will miss her very much indeed. May the Lord bless, keep, and comfort you in this time of loss.*

Don and Yolanda Bell

Don and Yolanda Bell - July 26, 2018 at 09:37 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Gail Ann Aiken.*



July 26, 2018 at 09:17 PM

LM

“Wow! I’m still shocked that you’re not going to be here anymore. From the time we met, you have been everything to me. A friend, sister, mother, confidant and more. And we have shared so many laughs, talks, lessons, thoughts and prayers that will now have to be remembered. And now, as I sit here writing this, my tears are overflowing because I know that I’ll never see you again on this earth. All the personal things that we’ve shared with each other are now in my mind and heart. I know that I may never understand why God had to call you home but of course, it’s not meant for me to understand and question. I’ll just have to remember all the good times we’ve shared and all the guidance you’ve given me. Gail because I love you, I’ll love your daughters, grandchildren and husband the same and pray that God gives them his love, peace and understanding. So until it’s our time, Simbo and I will carry your name, Full of Hope and legacy, until we are no more. So rest on until we meet again. 🥺❤️🙏😊

Latarsha Mosely - July 26, 2018 at 08:51 PM

DB

“It’s hard to believe that you’re gone. I really enjoyed the long talks and guidance that you gave me. You are going to truly be missed.

Demetrius Brown - July 26, 2018 at 06:14 PM

SS

“ I have listened to your voicemail over and over again wanting to call you at every sight of struggle. You are one of the most amazing people I know, you help me maneuver through life without judgement. You always listened to me and gave me the best advice. You will say to me "Simbo just let it go, just take a few deep breath, say a prayer, and do not say anything else". In the couple years that I have known you, you have taught me more than I could ever expect. You have always supported me in everything I want to do, you taught me patient, how to love myself, and walking my way back to God. You never ever judge me and there was nothing in this world that I could not tell you. Though I miss you I know your presence is always with me, and God needed you more than we did. Full of H.O.P.E.S love you and appreciate what you have done in the sickle cell community, your legacy will forever live on. I love you, rest in heaven angel. My prayers with the family and everyone that loves her as much as I do.



Simbo Shoyoye - July 26, 2018 at 05:23 PM

CC

“ My condolences to the family.



cynthia carter - July 26, 2018 at 03:54 PM



“ When we were growing up Gail was always the "good" kid who didn't get into trouble like most of us. She was always laughing and making silly jokes about what we could do instead being mischief makers. She was always a good person who endured much. God has given rest and peace to our much loved cousin.



Sammi & Carroll Jones

Ellen Dial - July 26, 2018 at 01:31 PM

PT

“ *Paula Tanabe and the Duke SCD Research Team purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Mrs. Gail Ann Aiken.*



Paula Tanabe and the Duke SCD Research Team - July 26, 2018 at 10:40 AM

DG

“ *Will miss you at the Beauty Parlor and our monthly luncheons, May God Bless and keep this family in his Grace .*



*Deloris Cozart Grayson
Family*

deloris grayson - July 26, 2018 at 09:58 AM

PT

“ To your entire family - You are all so special and a reflection of Gail's spirit. Gail was a blessing in my life. Let us all continue to live and work, and be comforted in honor of her spirit. Paula

Paula Tanabe - July 26, 2018 at 09:45 AM

MH

“ God will comfort you during this time. You all are in my prayers.

Margaret Harris

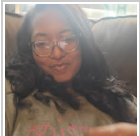


Margaret Harris - July 26, 2018 at 08:24 AM

CA

“ Peace be with the family. We love you cousin.

Cindy Anderson - July 25, 2018 at 09:20 PM



“ Mrs Gail you were such a breath of fresh air. You always had a smile on your face no matter what the situation was. I am very disturbed by your passing but I know that you are in a better place and I will always remember the memories we did share.

To your family may GOD comfort them in this time and know that she was the epitome of a virtuous woman and her legacy shall live on for years to come!!!!

Angeladetermined Thomas - July 25, 2018 at 10:34 AM