



Gwendolyn Jackson

September 28, 1959 - July 4, 2025

Gwendolyn Jackson was born on September 28, 1959, to the loving union of Joseph and Julia Quinn Jackson. She often referred to herself as the misunderstood middle child in a lively house of seven siblings - Doris Jean "Faye", Paul Anthony, Rosalind, and Derrick Reynold "Butch." Her siblings LaDwenna Carol "Dean" and Vernon preceded her in death.

Gwen grew up on Throop Street, where she and her siblings (along with her forever best friend Laureen) were known to stir up just the right amount of mischief. Whether it was engaging in a neighborhood street brawl or being chastised by an elderly neighbor for saying some not-so-nice words, Gwen was always in the midst of the action. A self-proclaimed bookworm, she'd stay up reading under the covers with a flashlight long after lights out and often got caught! That curiosity and love of words followed her into adulthood, shaping her quick wit, sharp tongue, and impressive vocabulary. Trust me, you would lose every debate!

She graduated from John W. Cook Elementary and Calumet High School. She met her great love, Terry "T," at a club when she was 15 - a place she had no business being! Their love brought forth her first child, Ivy Dacia Joi. Though their romantic relationship ended, their friendship endured for life. Terry remained a steady presence, helping co-parent Gwen's second child, Ian Diamonte Jerome, whom she had from another relationship.

Gwen gave her children the freedom to be who they were and encouraged them to speak their mind. For Ivy, she was a confidant, travel partner, and built-in safety net. Where Ivy is more reserved, Gwen was magnetic and full of energy - together, they were a perfect balance. For Ian, her “king,” they were kindred spirits that shared everything from a deep love of Prince to a mutual obsession with great music. Gwen always seemed to know what her son needed before he could ask. She was his compass, his peace, his teacher - and his heart.

Gwen worked at Humiston-Keeling before joining the United States Postal Service (USPS) as a mail carrier. Known to her co-workers as a firecracker who didn't back down from a fight for fairness, Gwen proudly served the USPS for nearly 30 years before retiring in 2023.

In retirement she accomplished one of her biggest dreams - becoming a first time homeowner. She enjoyed adorning her home in her own style, gardening, cooking, and caring for her granddaughter. Above all else, her greatest joy came from being YaYa to her “grand-ladies,” Thierry and Kayden. She was their biggest cheerleader, their motivator, and their fierce protector. She loved talking about them to anyone who would listen. Her love for them was loud, proud, and unconditional.

In January 2025, Gwen received a heartbreaking diagnosis: bladder cancer, complicated by severe kidney disease. Though she fought courageously, she suffered a series of strokes in June. On July 4th, 2025 — fittingly, Independence Day — she gained her freedom from pain and transitioned peacefully into eternal rest.

While our hearts are heavy, we take comfort in knowing she is reunited with her parents and her beloved sister Dean. We hold tight to our faith that to be

absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

Gwendolyn Jackson leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, strength, and spirit. She is survived by her two children: Ivy and Ian (Tierra); six grandchildren: Thierry Noir, Zainab, Xenobia, Evan, Kayden DeVaughn, and Taylor; four siblings: Faye, Paul (Regina), Ros, and Butch; her son-in-love Navarro; and a large extended family of nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws, and cherished friends.

Cemetery Details

Evergreen Cemetery

3401 W. 87th Street
Evergreen Park, IL 60805

Previous Events

Public Viewing

JUL 17. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Calahan Funeral Home - Legacy Center
7046 S. Halsted
Chicago, IL 60621

Visitation

JUL 18. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Calahan Funeral Home - Legacy Center
7046 S. Halsted
Chicago, IL 60621

Funeral Service

JUL 18. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Calahan Funeral Home - Legacy Center
7046 S. Halsted
Chicago, IL 60621

Burial/Interment

JUL 18. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Evergreen Cemetery
3401 W. 87th Street
Evergreen Park, IL 60805

Tribute Wall

AK

“ *I hate I couldn't be there. I'm going to miss you so much. I know your peaceful and happy watch over all of us down here.*



Akista - July 18, 2025 at 10:17 PM

ID

She is! ❤️

Ivy (Gwen's Daughter) - July 18, 2025 at 11:08 PM

AC

“ *My condolence to the family be strong. My name is Angela Carr. Me and Gwen worked at Grand crossing. She started in 1998. I started in 1997. We have been friends for a long time.* 🙏

Angela Carr - July 17, 2025 at 03:18 PM

DW

One of the sweetest people I know, a wonderful sense of humor, we had nicknames for each other, "Thing"and "It" you never know when the last time will be the last time. You will be missed and thought of often. Much Love to the family. Her legacy will continue.

Dominique White - July 17, 2025 at 04:38 PM

JT

This was our greeting each morning

Me: "Gwendolyn Darling"

Her: "John Darling"

I am going to truly miss that.

Along with everything such as your smile, laugh, and all around energy.

So my condolences to the family especially her babies (children and grandchildren)

Your postal family (The X) and (Loop) will miss you greatly

Rest my Gwendolyn Darling love you!!!

John Terry - July 18, 2025 at 07:04 AM

ID

Thank you for sharing ❤️

Ivy (Gwen's Daughter) - July 18, 2025 at 11:07 PM

JC

“ *Our Deepest Heartfelt Sympathy~Your Cousins, Harvey, IL~The Melton's. We are unable to attend. We send Our love and prayers. Father God place Your loving arms around the entire Family 🙌🙌
In Jesus Name Amen 🙏🙏🙏💕❤️❤️❤️*

Jimmie Melton Children - July 17, 2025 at 03:12 PM

ID

Amen! Thank you ❤️

Ivy (Gwen's Daughter) - July 18, 2025 at 11:08 PM

AC

“ *An caring co-worker purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Gwendolyn Jackson.*



An caring co-worker - July 17, 2025 at 12:44 PM

DC

“ *My the joy of the Lord be your strength in this challenging time. Praying that you find comfort in the precious memories of your Mom, sister, etc.*
dennis cole

dennis cole - July 17, 2025 at 12:01 PM

ID

Thank you! ❤️

Ivy (Gwen's Daughter) - July 18, 2025 at 11:09 PM

LN

“ *I'd like to take this time to express my condolences to the family. I met Gwen through Roz. From the moment I met Gwen, I liked her. Gwen was REAL and she spoke her mind. She had the prettiest eyes, and a very pleasant welcoming disposition.*



Lynette Nichols - July 16, 2025 at 11:55 PM

LG

My sincerest condolences to the family. I met Gwen at the hair salon where was a stylist; but not hers. Gwen was very friendly always had a beautiful smile. She had the most elegant walk, so our names for each other was "Sexy". So REST WELL SEXY LADY. YOU left an impression in my heart.

Linda Gilmore - July 17, 2025 at 11:48 AM

ID

Thank you for sharing ❤️

Ivy (Gwen's Daughter) - July 18, 2025 at 11:10 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gwendolyn Jackson.*



July 16, 2025 at 10:17 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gwendolyn Jackson.

July 16, 2025 at 10:17 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gwendolyn Jackson.*



July 16, 2025 at 02:14 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gwendolyn Jackson.

July 16, 2025 at 02:14 PM



“ *Erin Johnson and Rachel Jackson purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Gwendolyn Jackson.*



Erin Johnson and Rachel Jackson - July 15, 2025 at 12:16 PM