



## Dr. Gwendolyn B. Means

October 30, 1930 - November 22, 2024

Gwendolyn Barnes Means (94) wife, mother, sister, aunt, godmother, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend, civic activist and native Washingtonian earned her heavenly wings on November 22, 2024, surrounded by her family and a friend. She was born October 30, 1930, to Milton Barnes, Sr. and Cecilia Jones and was raised in Washington, DC.

Gwen was educated in the DC Public schools attending Cook ES, Terrell JHS and Paul Lawrence Dunbar HS, all a part of division 10-13 of the segregated District of Columbia Public Schools. She earned her undergraduate degree in math and science from Miners Teachers College. Gwendolyn married the love of her life, the late Bracy Means, Sr. and together they raised their 5 children (Darah, Patrice, Andrea-deceased, Bracy, Jr. and Wanda) and many others including nieces and nephews in North Michigan Park.

Dr. Means served in a variety of leadership roles (lead teacher, dept. chair, instructional supervisor) during her 38-year career in DC Public Schools. She believed in being a lifelong learner, earning her master's degree from Federal City College and later, her doctorate from VA Tech, specializing in math and science instruction. She retired as the Assistant Director of Mathematics in DCPS. Dr. Means was also an active 44-year member of the American University Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, where she served as president, vice president, newsletter editor, delegate on the national level, and research and

student symposium committee member.

She was a planner, organizer, futurist and an action-oriented citizen. Although she was retired, she continued to teach and remain involved in her community. She served for several years on the US Postal Council. She provided support to young families through the Friends of Washington program, taught line dancing classes at Model Cities Senior Wellness Center, Wildlife Gardens classes at Turkey Thicket Recreation Center and exploring science at the Alpha Kappa Alpha Summer Youth Program. She was an active member, a Diamond Soror, of the Xi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc. for 76 years.

Gwen traveled for many years, taking her RV south during the winter and summer months, camping with friends and other DC Rambler families. She also enjoyed traveling by train and playing Scrabble with neighbors and friends. Throughout her life, providing that motherly guidance and support was first and foremost. She stood for excellence without excuses and was known for her kindness, generosity, and can-do mindset. Her enthusiasm for life was infectious.

She is survived by her 4 children (Darah Means, Patrice Means-Marlow, Bracy Means, Jr. (Winnie) and Wanda Means-Harris (Bertrand), 2 siblings Duane Barnes, Sherrill Chase (Deryck), 14 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren and numerous godchildren, nieces, nephews and friends. A wake for Dr. Means will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2025, at 9:00am, followed by a funeral service at 10:00am at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church on 12th and Monroe Sts., NE, DC. Graveside services to follow the repast at 2pm @ Gates of Heaven Cemetery, 13801 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20906. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Gwendolyn Barnes Means can be made to the Dunbar Alumni Federation, Inc. @ [www.daf-dc.org](http://www.daf-dc.org) or the Gwendolyn Barnes Means Legacy Fund with the Pearl and Ivy Educational Foundation,

Inc. @ akaxo.org.

# Cemetery Details

## Gate of Heaven Cemetery

13801 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20906

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 11. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church  
1029 Monroe St NE  
Washington, DC 20017

## Service

JAN 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church  
1029 Monroe St NE  
Washington, DC 20017

# Tribute Wall

PB

“ Love you Auntie grateful for the wonderful life you lived and the example you set

Patrick Barnes - January 12, 2025 at 01:40 AM

SC

“ It has been a long time, but Dr. Means was my math teacher at Dunbar HS in Washington, D.C. I graduated from Dunbar HS in 1975. When I saw her picture in the Washington Post, memories came to me immediately. She made math seem easy to understand. She had a chair beside her desk and if you needed help, it was there for you. In some classes that chair was for the troublemakers. But in her class it was for help. She was a great teacher.

Sheila Carpenter - January 11, 2025 at 11:15 PM

TF

“ The Clark Family purchased the Forever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of Dr. Gwendolyn B. Means.



The Clark Family - January 07, 2025 at 07:48 PM

TF

“ The Clark Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Gwendolyn B. Means.

The Clark Family - January 07, 2025 at 07:48 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams* was purchased for the family of Dr. Gwendolyn B. Means.



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December 24, 2024 at 10:07 AM



“ 10 files added to the album *Gwen at Mary's Birthday Party in St. Anthony's School Caeteria, 2016*



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**Christina L Scheltema** - December 14, 2024 at 10:32 PM

CS

“ 10 files added to the album *Mary's Birthday Party @ St. Anthony's School Cafeteria, 2016*



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**Christina L Scheltema** - December 14, 2024 at 10:26 PM

CS

“ *Darah and family,*

*Please accept my deepest condolences upon your mother's passing. Gwen was a force to be reckoned with. I first met her through the Orange hats, when I introduced myself via a phone call. I met her in person when she joined the now defunct Brookland community garden at 7th and Monroe Sts, NE. She and Bertha Nowden were our senior gardeners. Gwen enlisted Sally's help in digging up her garden in the spring. From there, I watched her age as gracefully as humanely possible. She refused to let her body's frailties keep her from doing things she loved. I have fond memories of her, dancing with her walker. May your memories provide comfort during this difficult time.*

*Hugs,*

*Christina Scheltema*

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**Christina L Scheltema** - December 14, 2024 at 10:03 PM

BB

“ *BRENDA BRITTAIN lit a candle in memory of Gwendowlyn Means*



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**BRENDA BRITTAIN** - December 14, 2024 at 01:48 PM



“ *We the March Family and Marshall-March Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.*

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**Marshall-March Funeral Homes** - December 05, 2024 at 09:02 AM