



## Mary Jean Gaines

December 15, 1945 - December 30, 2024

Mary Jean Adams Gaines was born on December 15, 1945 in Edgefield, South Carolina to the late Mary Lou and Willie Adams. She was the youngest of 6 children. Mary was surrounded by her family when God called her home on Monday, December 30, 2024.

Her early education began in South Carolina before the family moved to Washington, DC in 1957. She continued her education in the DC Public School system graduating from Theodore Roosevelt High School in 1964. She went on to matriculate at DC Teachers College, now the University of the District of Columbia where she received her BA degree. She earned her Masters in Curriculum and Instruction with Reading and Literacy as a concentration from George Washington University.

Mary enjoyed teaching and began her career teaching elementary school students at Wilkerson Elementary School in Washington, DC. Over the years she taught at other schools in DC and Prince Georges County, Maryland before retiring from teaching as a reading specialist from Charles County Public Schools in Maryland. Mary was also a much sought-after tutor and enjoyed the one-on-one contact with children.

Her love for the Lord was nurtured in Gethsemane Baptist Church in Washington, DC. Her family united with Gethsemane under the pastorate of

Rev. George R. Yancey shortly after they moved to Washington, DC. She was active in the Sunday School and served as Sunday School Superintendent. She also served on Senior Usher Board #2, the Flower Club, was President of the Progressive Club and served on the Board of Trustees. Around 2000 Mary united with Evangel Cathedral in Upper Marlboro, Maryland where she continued her service for the Lord as a teacher and minister. She loved the Lord and shared this love with everyone she met.

Mary married John Russell Gaines in 1971 and from this union one son was born, Russell Jermaine Gaines. The marriage ended in divorce.

She had a sweet and comforting personality. She loved reading, teaching, and learning and willingly shared her knowledge with all she encountered. She was a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

In addition to her parents, Mary was predeceased by her grandson, Russell; brother, Robert Adams; and sister, Betty Robinson.

She leaves to cherish her memory her son, Russell (Tamika Waiters); sister, Dorothy White; brothers, James Edward Adams and Roosevelt Adams; godson, Ryan Walker; nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends, including special friends, Allen and Lisa Wheeler, Marie Peoples and godsister, Verna (Becky) Walker.

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

**JAN 31.** 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Marshall-March Funeral Homes - Prince George's County  
4308 Suitland Road  
Suitland, MD 20746  
(301) 736-1616  
info@marchfh.com  
<https://www.marshallmarchfh.com>

### Funeral Service

**JAN 31.** 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM (ET)

Marshall-March Funeral Homes - Prince George's County  
4308 Suitland Road  
Suitland, MD 20746  
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# Tribute Wall

BA

“ Hey my auntie you have earned your wings  
RIP AUNTIE you will truly be missed



brenda d adams - January 31, 2025 at 11:34 AM

CH

“ Chas lit a candle in memory of Mary Gaines



Chas - January 31, 2025 at 09:18 AM

EF

“ We would like to extend our condolences to the family. In times of distress we need comfort that soothes our hearts. Thinking of you all.

Evans family - January 19, 2025 at 10:50 AM



“ 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.

Marshall-March Funeral Homes - January 17, 2025 at 10:16 AM