



## Gwendolyn Banks Dorman

March 20, 1941 - January 14, 2024

The first note the world ever heard from Gwendolyn Louise Banks Dorman was on March 20, 1941, in the City of Richmond, Virginia. Her late parents, Kemper Banks and Florence Taylor Banks, welcomed her with open arms and she sang her way through life until she passed, on January 14, 2024.

Gwen, as she was known to all, attended Richmond Public Schools and graduated from the historic Maggie L. Walker High School. She graduated from Virginia State College (now Virginia State University) in 1962 with a degree in music education. While at VSU, she became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated in 1959. She celebrated 50 years of membership in 2009 and she was a Diamond Life Member. Upon her graduation, Gwen began her professional career as an elementary school teacher in the Richmond Public School system where she would stay until retirement. She combined her joy of teaching and music and used every opportunity to be an educator. In addition to being a classroom teacher, she devoted additional time to teaching piano to children.

After graduation, Gwen married Milton R. Nash, Jr., with whom she was blessed to welcome her daughter Andrea Nash Wright. Later, Gwen found love again and married Frank E. Bebbs, and their family grew with Michelle, Shelia, Fonda, and Frank, Jr. After being widowed she later married Frederick Johnson. In 2007, Gwen married George Dorman, Jr. with whom she shared a

blended family with the addition of Vincent and Donna. Gwen, or Pookie as she was called by her grandchildren: Alexander, Lauren, Chelsea, and Justin, delighted in seeing them become positive and productive young adults.

Gwen enjoyed membership in a variety of organizations which she found fulfilling. Over the years, in addition to being a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, fuc., she was a member of The VFW Ladies Auxiliary, Richmond Chapter of Delicados, fuc., Maggie L. Walker Alumni Association, Eastern Star, and Delver Women's Club. As a member of the Happy Travelers Travel Group, Gwen fulfilled her passion for visiting other cultures and experiencing cuisine around the world-she loved good food!! To say Gwen enjoyed entertaining and living life is an understatement. She found any occasion to have family and friends over whether it was a planned cookout or impromptu pool party just because the weather was nice. She loved to see people enjoy themselves. She also loved to dance and most of all, she loved to sing. She regularly attended the Gospel Music Workshop of America (GWMA) and her passion for music and singing drove her to lead the establishment of the R L. Taylor Inspirational Choir (formerly the Intermediate Choir) at Fourth Baptist Church for which she served as the choir director for over 60 years. Gwen was a woman of many talents, and she wrote poetry, sketched, and used her eye for style to decorate her home. With each season and holiday, you could bet that she would have a color scheme and decor to celebrate the time.

Gwen is preceded in death by her husband, George Dorman, Jr. She leaves to cherish her memory her daughter, Andrea Wright (Lawrence); bonus children, Vincent Dorman, Donna Dorman Brown (James); grandchildren, Alexander Wright, Lauren Wright, Chelsea Brown, and Justin Brown; a host of other family and friends including devoted, Linda Dupee-Clark

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

JAN 25. 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home -Laburnum Chapel  
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.  
Richmond, VA 23222

### Omega Omega Service

JAN 25. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home -Laburnum Chapel  
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.  
Richmond, VA 23222

### Celebration of Life

JAN 26. 1:00 PM (ET)

Fourth Baptist Church  
2800 P Street  
Richmond, VA 23223

# Tribute Wall

BB

“ Sending message of Condolences to Andrea and the rest of family. Andrea, your mother was a beautiful person who lent her beauty and passed on her ability for successful achievements to you. Keeping you in thoughts and hoping that your memories will help to ease the pain of your dear mother's passing  
Sincerely, Beatrice Bush

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**Beatrice Bush** - January 26, 2024 at 05:29 PM

IB

“ Deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the family of Gwendolyn Banks Dorman. I sang on the Intermediate Choir, at Fourth Baptist Church in the 70's, under her directorship. Gwendolyn was my friend and a dedicated church member. The sight of her sitting at the piano and directing the choir was one of the most common sights at Fourth Baptist. I found her presence both calm and reassuring. She was the epitome of commitment and excellence in ministry. Gwendolyn was simply a great person all around. She is loved and respected by many and will be greatly missed. With warmest regards, Irene Coles Brice.

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**Irene C. Brice** - January 26, 2024 at 10:39 AM

DW

“ Day by day , may the light of your memories heal your sorrow and bring your family peace. I have really wonderful memories of the great times with the Friendly Travelers Club with Gwen and George, a wonderful couple who were such a joy to travel with.  
With sympathy, Dennis Winston

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**Dennis Winston** - January 26, 2024 at 09:46 AM

FR

“ Angels in heaven will be waiting for you to join your husband ! And to your husband sister Mrs Dorman sorry to hear about you beautiful sister law. I know your pain still.remember the lost of your brother  
God love them both!

Friend - January 26, 2024 at 01:24 AM

KM

“ Kathleen M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gwendolyn Banks Dorman.

Kathleen M. - January 25, 2024 at 09:40 PM

TC

“ Gwen was a dear soror who truly loved Delta Sigma Theta.

T. Karen Carter - January 25, 2024 at 01:33 PM

TC

T. Karen Carter

T. Karen Carter - January 25, 2024 at 01:35 PM

MW

“ Michael Washington purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Gwendolyn Banks Dorman.



Michael Washington - January 25, 2024 at 08:42 AM

MW

“ Michael Washington planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gwendolyn Banks Dorman.

Michael Washington - January 25, 2024 at 08:42 AM

FF

“ So sad for the family of the three Dorman brothers you lost your brother a year ago  
Now your sister law ! Please know God will heal all your pain ! 🙏🙏

Family friend - January 21, 2024 at 07:31 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gwendolyn Banks Dorman.



January 21, 2024 at 02:15 PM

RP

“ Renee Mitchell Paxton planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gwendolyn Banks Dorman.

Renee Mitchell Paxton - January 21, 2024 at 02:15 PM



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



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January 20, 2024 at 11:56 AM



“ *We the March Family and 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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**March Funeral Homes** - January 17, 2024 at 03:45 PM