



Gail Millender

January 28, 1955 - January 6, 2026

Born on January 28, 1955, to Willie Lee Merritt and Lois Virginia Willis, Gail was a luminous spirit whose grace, love, devotion to God, and unwavering faith touched all who were fortunate enough to know her.

From a young age, Gail dedicated her life to serving Christ, lending her angelic voice to the choir at Mt. Canaan Missionary Baptist Church. Her musical talents flourished as she recorded a song that will forever be cherished by her children and grandchildren. In her later years, Gail found a loving community at New Hope Methodist Church, where she devoted herself tirelessly for nearly three decades under the guidance of Reverend Doctor Henry McGhee. Her faith was a beacon of hope and inspiration for many, and her joyful songs resonated in the hearts of those who listened.

A proud graduate of Talladega High School, Class of 1973, Gail embraced a lifelong calling to nurture and educate children. Her journey began with an in-home daycare and blossomed into a notable career in early childhood education, impacting the lives of countless young ones at Precious Angels, Brecon Learning Center, Granny's House, and the Frank Curry Child Development Center. Most significantly, she became the Director at Kiddie School Junction, a role she held dear as one of her greatest achievements. Celebrating love's eternal bond, Gail married the love of her life, George Millender Jr., on July 7, 1975. Together, they journeyed through life's blessings for an extraordinary 50 years, creating memories that span the globe during George's service in the United States Army.

On Tuesday, January 6, 2026, Gail Willis Millender, a radiant spirit and cherished soul, peacefully departed from this world at the age of 70. In the comfort of her home in Talladega, Alabama, surrounded by the love of her family, Gail transitioned to her eternal rest, leaving behind a legacy of compassion, kindness, and unwavering strength. She is now reunited with her beloved grandmother, Brooksie Swain; parents, Lois Virginia Willis and Willie Lee Merritt; stepmother, Lillie Mae Merritt; and sisters, Virginia Jordan, Gladys Cook, and Marshell Merritt Foster.

She is survived by her devoted husband, George Millender Jr.; brothers, Michael Willis of Tacoma, Washington, Bernard (Rena) Merritt, Jeffery Merritt, and Hall (Olivia) Merritt Sr. all of Talladega, Alabama; and her sister, Janet (Rudy)Reynolds of Alpine, Alabama.

Her love extends to her children, Parlisia (Bernard) Waites of Talladega, Alabama, Tavonia Millender of Virginia Beach, Virginia, Tillary (Nick) Curry of Madison, Alabama, Mandisa Millender of Talladega, Alabama, Lashonda M. Lee of Euclid, Ohio, and David Langley of Douglasville, Georgia; a special niece she raised as her own, Dorice Millender; with a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends, all of whom will hold her memory close to their hearts.

Gail is also fondly remembered by her bonus sisters, Larsinia Hann and Carolyn Morris; bonus daughters, Jade Smoot and Denescia Willis; along with her loving bonus grandchildren, Patrick and Cayden Robinson, Alonte Kirby, and Jamarius Willis; bonus granddaughters, Ivyana and Mikiali Willis.

Her remarkable legacy will live on through her adoring granddaughters, Montoya and Yasmine Waites, Raegan Curry, and L'Nique-Mone' Freeman Jones (Darius); grandsons, Nicavian Curry, Chaston and Krue Hale, Devin L. Lee, and Brian L. Lee; and great-grandchildren, Kanijah and Khylee Borden, and Amina, Akai, and Azair Jones.

The family especially wishes to express their heartfelt gratitude to her sister-in-love, Dianna Millender, for her compassionate care during Gail's time of need, as well as her dear cousins, Yolanda Curry and Angela Williams; and treasured friends Rosa Briskey, Judy Adams, Phyllis Brown and Patricia Robinson.

As we gather to celebrate Gail's life-her laughter, her songs, and the love she poured into the world-may we each carry a piece of her spirit into our own lives, allowing her warmth and kindness to continue inspiring all who knew her. May she rest in eternal peace.

Cemetery Details

Kelly Springs Memorial Gardens

351 Curry Station Rd
Munford, AL 36268

Previous Events

Public Viewing

JAN 16. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

S.M. Goodson Funeral Home
217 Coosa St. East
Talladega, AL 35160

Celebration of Life

JAN 17. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

New Hope Methodist Church
618 Knox Street
Talladega, AL 35160

Tribute Wall

AP

“ *Andrea Parker lit a candle in memory of Gail Millender*



Andrea Parker - January 23 at 08:10 AM

BT

“ *Love you my dear sister and going to miss you dearly. You are such a special woman.and just part of our family that will be missed. Love you Gail* 💜💜🙏🙏🌹

Beverly Towns - January 17 at 03:06 PM

LC

“ *Mrs, Gail taught me a lot while we worked at KiddieSchool Junction. She was sweet, funny, and she loved her babies. My deepest condolences to Mr. George, and their daughters, , and grandchildren. She will truly be missed.*



La'Sinka Chapman - January 17 at 10:22 AM

JR

Sending prayers to you and and family

Joy Reynolds - January 18 at 07:01 PM

FI

My condolences to George and family,I met them when I was married to a family member and they were stationed in ft. benning,we all became close and had good times together they were so nice, and Gail RIP you were a true servant of God 🙏 Love, Freda Isbell

Freda Isbell - April 21 at 08:45 PM

LW

*“ Sending deepest condolences too a truly good friend during times shared throughout high school. What a great woman to be around always a smile shown ..with family and friends always .
Dega forever!
Larry wilson
Class of 73*



Larry Wilson - January 17 at 06:43 AM

BH

“ My deepest sympathy goes out to my cousin George in the passing of his wife Gail.May God give you the strength to go through.Love you all

Barbara Hall - January 16 at 11:41 AM

CB

“ Our deepest condolences to the family. Praying for your strength!

Curtis and Deborah Brown - January 15 at 08:54 PM

TH

“ *My deepest sympathies to the Millender and Willis Family. In our desert of grief, Jesus can provide an oasis of hope. Hebrews 4:15*
Tyra Rice Hawkins
THS Class of 1974



Tyra Hawkins - January 15 at 03:56 PM

TH

1973

Tyra Hawkins - January 15 at 03:58 PM

YI

“ *Your Cousin, Mike & Gloria Isbell purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Gail Millender.*



Your Cousin, Mike & Gloria Isbell - January 15 at 01:12 PM

TV

“ *My deepest condolences to the Willis and Millender families. I will always cherish Gail's mild pleasant personality, the activities we were engaged in and enjoyed at Mount Canaan Church during our school ages.*
Theresa H. Vincent



Theresa H Vincent - January 13 at 12:42 PM

MD

“ *My Deepest to the Millender and Willis family. Gail and I were classmates. She will be greatly missed.*



Mary Davis - January 13 at 11:37 AM

TB

“ *Teresa Hutchinson Bell lit a candle in memory of Gail Millender*



Teresa Hutchinson Bell - January 12 at 10:52 PM

TS

“ *My heartfelt condolences to Gail's family. The Lord picked a beautiful and smiling flower for his garden. Take your rest my friend*



Theresa Stockdale - January 12 at 11:43 AM

DD

“ *My deepest condolences to George and his family. Gail and I was classmate and friend. She was a loving and kind person. And had such a beautiful smile. She will be greatly missed by those that had an impact on her life.*

Deborah Dye - January 11 at 07:10 PM

SG

“ *My deepest condolences to George and family. Gail and I were classmates and grew up together, even attending and singing in the choir together at Mt Canaan. We last saw each other at a class reunion, and she was the same beautiful person and beautiful spirit I remember. God rest your soul and prayers of comfort, joy, and peace to the family.*

Sonja Taylor Gore - January 10 at 06:20 PM

LN

“ *Lynette Nix lit a candle in memory of Gail Millender*



Lynette Nix - January 10 at 05:26 PM

AC

“ *Annette S CHATMAN lit a candle in memory of Gail Millender*



Annette S CHATMAN - January 10 at 05:25 PM

CA

“ *We are keeping you all in our hearts, thoughts, and prayers. Martin and Carmen Gooden*



Carmen - January 09 at 10:30 PM



“ *Many prayers and condolences to the Family*
🙏



Gwennette Duncan - January 09 at 09:13 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to you and your children. May God comfort you all during this difficult time. Love you Cuzzin, ❤️🙏❤️*
Sheryl

sheryl Hunt - January 09 at 04:03 PM



“ *My condolences 🌸, praying for your for the families*



Marvin and Marquilla Gooden and family - January 09 at 02:52 PM



“ *“My sincere condolences to the family. Having grown up in church with her and her children, and later entrusting her with the care of my own children, I am grateful for her life and kindness.”*



Sherita Tuck - January 09 at 09:36 AM

PP

“ *Pink Panther lit a candle in memory of Gail Millender*



Pink Panther - January 09 at 08:55 AM

QM

“ *My Condolences to the family. Praying for comfort in the days ahead* 🙏🙏🙏

Quenzella Mickens - January 08 at 11:36 PM

LC

“ *Mrs. Gail was not just my co- worker, but a dear friend. She will truly be missed. Sincere condolences to Mr. George, and her family.* 🙏
🙏🙏🙏

La'Sinka Chapman - January 08 at 10:10 PM

LP

“ *Lori Pope lit a candle in memory of Gail Millender*



lori pope - January 08 at 08:18 PM

JR

Sending prayers to you and your family 🙏

Joy Reynolds - January 09 at 11:32 PM



“ *My Brother in Christ, I am so sorry to hear this. Sending love, prayers, condolences with deepest sympathy. Much Love.*

Zeola Moore - January 08 at 08:11 PM

BH

To my cousin George, My heart goes out to you in the passing of your wife, Love you all

Barbara Hall - January 08 at 08:40 PM

PP

Prayers & Condolences to the Wonderful Blessed Millender Family! May Her Beautiful Memories Lighten Yall Heavy Hearts! K4L LOVE! Pink Panther

Pink Panther - January 09 at 08:59 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Gail Millender.*



January 08 at 06:59 PM

TD

“ *Tina Dickerson lit a candle in memory of Gail Millender*



Tina Dickerson - January 08 at 04:15 PM

SA

“ Tillary,
I am praying for you and your family.
Sharon Acoff-Sledge

Sharon Acoff-Sledge - January 08 at 02:57 PM

DD

“ Deborah Dickerson lit a candle in memory of
Gail Millender



Deborah Dickerson - January 08 at 01:19 AM

BH

“ Barbara Harmon sent a virtual gift in memory of
Gail Millender



Barbara Harmon - January 07 at 09:26 PM

TS

“ My heartfelt condolences to the Millender, Willis families. The Lord
pick a beautiful flower, take your rest my friend.

Theresa Stockdale - January 07 at 02:13 PM

MJ

God have gain a beautiful ❤️ angel, rest my friend, fly high going to
miss 🙏❤️ you

Mary Ann James - January 08 at 02:06 PM

PB

“ Fly high Angel



Pamela Bradford - January 07 at 11:09 AM

PB

“ Wow, this one hit me hard... One of the most loving sweet spirited woman I know. Take your rest my beautiful friend there's no doubt about it you will be missed... My deepest condolences to the Millender family, God will strengthen and comfort you as he take you through this difficult time. R.I.P. Angel.

Pamela Bradford - January 07 at 11:06 AM

VS

“ Valerie Stockdale lit a candle in memory of Gail Millender



Valerie Stockdale - January 07 at 10:50 AM

VS

“ My Deepest Sympathy and Condolences to the Family 🙏🙏 Gail was the Sweetest, Most Loving Woman I had the opportunity to Know and Love, May the Sweet Memories brighten the Days ahead 🙏 ❤️ Rest In Paradise Sweet Gail 💜

Valerie Stockdale - January 07 at 10:49 AM

SW

“ Stanley Earl Williams lit a candle in memory of Gail Millender



Stanley Earl Williams - January 07 at 02:44 AM

JR

“ Sending prayers to you and your family 🙏 Elaine Reynolds and family

Joy Reynolds - January 06 at 10:07 PM

LW

Sending prayers to your family and my condolences.

Lashon wallace - January 17 at 12:00 AM

LW

Praying for family

Lashon wallace - January 17 at 12:01 AM