



Gladys Blade Reaves

August 7, 1967 - April 28, 2023

Gladys Reaves, 55 of Guntersville passed away Friday April 28th at UAB. She was born in Leland Mississippi to Margie Smith and Thomas Blade, on August 7, 1967. She is preceded in death by her father Thomas Blade and her sister Evelyn Blade. She is survived in death by her mother Margie Holland, husband Brad Reaves, her daughters Michelle Blade, Tiffany Blade, and Sonya Dingler, her grandchildren Lillian Cherry, Olivia Cherry, Asa Williams, Eva Williams, Alice Cobb, Emme Cobb, Jack Cobb, Braxton Narrell, Lovina Blade, and Noah Purdy. She is also survived by her siblings Elvis Blade, Laura Blade, Mary Wright, Robin Jolly, Beverly Davis, Renee Kuhn, Angela Jenkins, Jessica Blade, and Jenna Blade. She also has many nieces and nephews. Gladys was a wonderful inspiring woman. She would help anyone in need. Saying no wasn't in her vocabulary much. She lit up rooms with her fun, loving spirit, and her smile. She had a hard start in life, but that never stopped her. She kept a soft heart, and gave so much love to all her friends and family. Everywhere she went she left a positive impact on all those around her. Even though she struggled much of her life, giving up was not an option. She was a fighter, and she fought hard all the way till the end. She left this world at peace, surrounded by loved ones.

Visitation will be held at Guntersville Memorial Chapel May 5th from 12 until 2 and the service will be held at 2pm followed by a graveside service at diamond cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Diamond Cemetery

Warrenton Road
Guntersville, AL 35976

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 5. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Guntersville Memorial Chapel
1601 Henry Street
Guntersville, AL 35976
(256) 582-7931
guntersvillememorial@gmail.com

Funeral Service

MAY 5. 2:00 PM (CT)

Guntersville Memorial Chapel
1601 Henry Street
Guntersville, AL 35976
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Tribute Wall

“ I have contemplated what to say, how to say it, when to say it, if to say it, and recycled through over and over for brevity's sake. So, I scrapped brevity.

My personal memories...made during my personal time spent, initiated by my personal efforts to keep a sisterly bond through the years, without the prompts of parents, without the interference of siblings, and without the distractions of a world around us both...were worth every second!

For those memories that are mine to keep, I am thankful they were pure love, pure concerns, and a safe place to speak.

No one ever said anything bad to me about my big sister and therefore, I was able to make my own mind up about who I think (thought) she was as a person. I want to thank the family for so many years of allowing me to formulate my own mind of who my sister was as a person.

In the end, it has been sad to learn that my dear sister Gladys was not given equal treatment to formulate her own mind without interference. I pity many and am so glad my dear sister does not have to suffer any longer with the prompts of others, interferences from the jealous, or deceptions from deceivers.

I pity those that want so desperately to taint the minds of others and then attempt to slip into their spot. This is 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12, sadly. I don't know all the reasons that some simply get an emotional charge out of tearing and ripping into the minds of others. The best deceivers come with subtlety and smiles, peppered with certain glances and sighs - so to make an impression that deepens.

I know my God winks at us when we are naive (ignorant) about things we are told. And this is the hope I have...that my God is faithful and true and will one day clear Gladys's mind of all of the troubles she was unfairly introduced to.

The Golden Rule is "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." So many say it when they desire grace and mercy, but with loving tenderness in my heart, I am saddened to see this rule abandoned too.

I remember Gladys as a person who would rather inflict pain to herself than to others. And though not perfect, this was a noble quality that kept me coming back for more of my sister. She was open and willing to listen to my troubles. She didn't tell me what to do, how I was wrong, or how I need to do something else. She just listened and said, "I hear you, Sis."

Many letters were shared between us in our early years since neither of us had a phone and too poor back then to have one, since we were starting off on our own. To which we could become as short or verbose as we would like in those letters.

I appreciate Brad, my brother-in-law, as he has treated my sister with love,

dignity, and made her a better woman. Brad being in my sister's and nieces life allowed Gladys to have a safe place to heal and be herself. After too many tears with each other, not knowing where my sister and the girls were sometimes, having grave concerns, it was a pleasure to welcome Brad into our family!!!

That meant I no longer had to hear the gruesome details of her experiences. I no longer had to listen to how Gladys was physically or emotional in pain. I kept a lot of secrets through the years. I want to publicly share that Brad has had my support from day one - watching from afar, he passed the test all the way to the end! Thank you Brad for loving my sister and I am so sorry for your loss.

There is such a deep void in your heart that no one can ever replace. But Jesus would like to do His best to help you figure out how to make it through this pain, if you allow Him.

To my nieces, you have been through ungodly experiences and I appreciate a couple of you sharing your sorrows and experiences a couple of times with me. I only heard a little but know the "little" was just a small fragment. I encourage you to remember your mom's noble qualities and forgive the imperfect side each of us parents have. As parents, you know you simply do the best you know how.

I pray that no one comes to your children to EVER tell them how bad you are at parenting. I pray no one ever tries to take your place in their hearts and lives. If they are successful, that will be such a atrocious act in itself that would cut and slaughter your heart. It is a gruesome and murderous act, in a sense, when one slaughters and rips a child's mind and love away from their loving parent - to which I know too well, sadly.

Many years ago, I started a little family of my own and only had one child. Having one child, well, it was "all or nothing parenting." Meaning, I chose to give everything I had in me to be the best mom, though never perfect.

To have someone come into my inner circle, claiming they loved us, slaughtered the innocents of my beautiful girl, with deceptions...well, pray no one ever tries to replace you in the minds and hearts of your beautiful children.

You are who you are, perfect in some areas and not so perfect in other areas — but you are one of a kind and have been there for them. I have learned a mammoth lesson in the last 12 years about being irreplaceable beings, each and every one of us. I wish everyone realized that — that would prevent a lot of jealousy and trying to one-up the other. We are all individuals! Teaching your children this will allow them to know you are special, they are special, and others are too. It would help them know that when a loved one is lost, there is no one that can replace that person.

So, I commend you for staying in your mom's life and/or coming back to her when she was the most vulnerable in her life - the end. She loved each of you and your

children dearly!!! Never forget that!!!

Yes, my memories of my big sister are many and intimate and despite some minor interferences from others in the end, I had a lifetime with her that was just ours. We had a private place to come, when we came to the other. We had silence from the world yet spoke about the world. We had relief from those that we loved and yet had matters in the moment with them.

It was time and space simply filled with companionship, love, and intimacy—without being taken advantage of.

It was a time to heal. It was a time to cry. It was a time to laugh. It was a time to encourage.

I know she kept coming back to me over and over — and that makes a little sister pleased to know that she brings something positive to the table.

I know true relationships are based on truth; knowing that, I know I had many years of true sisterhood. She and I did not have to trump the other with this or that. We were equals!

Thank you God for giving me Gladys. I am better for being her little sister.

*Love forever,
Little Sister Renee*

Renee - May 04, 2023 at 12:23 AM



“ 146 files added to the album LifeTributes



Guntersville Memorial Chapel & Crematory - May 03, 2023 at 01:28 PM

AN

“ Anne lit a candle in memory of Gladys Blade Reaves



Anne - May 01, 2023 at 07:45 PM

AK

“ Aunt Renee Blade Kuhn purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Gladys Blade Reaves.



Aunt Renee Blade Kuhn - May 01, 2023 at 06:17 PM

RK

“ Renee Blade Kuhn purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Gladys Blade Reaves.



Renee Blade Kuhn - May 01, 2023 at 06:17 PM

AK

“ Aunt Renee Blade Kuhn purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Gladys Blade Reaves.



Aunt Renee Blade Kuhn - May 01, 2023 at 06:17 PM

AK

“ Aunt Renee Blade Kuhn purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Gladys Blade Reaves.



Aunt Renee Blade Kuhn - May 01, 2023 at 06:17 PM