



## Ms. Gwendolyn Lorraine Altheimer

September 7, 1953 - July 31, 2015

My mom, Gwendolyn L. Altheimer, passed away during a "blue moon" on July 31st which was the second full moon of July. Two full moons in a single month is a somewhat rare occurrence as it hasn't happened since 2012 and won't happen again until 2018. Amazingly, my mom was even rarer.

She was born in Detroit, Michigan but also lived in New Jersey, Arkansas, Pennsylvania, California, and Illinois. As a young woman she even inserted herself into the Civil Rights Movement. She marched with the eminent Father Groppi and briefly joined the Nation of Islam to help in servicing the community.

With an eclectic skill set, she was able to delve into several different careers concurrently. She was prominent at the health department for the city, county, and state. She was a diligent tax preparer, a savvy businesswoman in real estate, and an activist for education.

Gwen also spent her days in search of knowledge. She graduated from Divine Savior High School. She continued going back to school throughout her life while working full time. She earned a degree at MATC. She received her Bachelor's at University of Wisconsin-Madison and two Master's at Concordia University. Her ultimate goal was to get a doctorate and she was only a few credits shy.

My mom was my best friend. As a child I nicknamed her Meme and couldn't resist curling up in her lap well into my college years. I will

definitely miss hearing her voice and seeing her smile.

Gwendolyn is survived by her children Brandi Sanders and Ashanti Coates; her siblings Isaac Dunn, Janice Nicholson-Harding, Lydia Nicholson, Rodrick "Ricky" Nicholson; and mother Clover D. Nicholson. She was preceded in death by her son Julius Jamal Coates and her father Louis Altheimer Jr.

----Brandi Sanders

# Cemetery Details

## Graceland Cemetery

6401 N. 43rd St.  
Milwaukee, WI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Northwest Funeral Chapel  
6630 W. Hampton Ave  
Milwaukee, WI

## Service

AUG 8. 11:00 AM (CT)

Northwest Funeral Chapel  
6630 W. Hampton Ave  
Milwaukee, WI

# Tribute Wall

ED

“ I am Gwen's sister in law. I must applaud this previous gift of God for her commitment to do God's will which is His Word to honor your mother and father so it will be well with you. Gwen to the best of her ability went above and beyond to ensure her mother would not have to be concerned about the ins and outs of everyday life. Gwen's efforts in this area continues to be affective this day. Her mother (Clover) still doesn't know how the bills are being paid because she never had to be concerned about that. So even after death Gwen is still taking care of the bills. How amazing it is!!. Gwen always took the initiative to see it that her children had every opportunity available to succeed in life whether they would enjoy the fruits of her labor would be up to them. I can only pray and hope that you (Gwen) found eternal peace in Jesus Christ during your finally moments of your short temporary life on Earth. May your eternal life be filled with joy unspeakable, fun, laughter, and love eternal.

---

**Elnora Dunn** - May 27, 2018 at 02:54 PM

GI

“ I met Gwen a few years ago , she was a beautiful person smart with a wonderful sense of humor . She spoke of her daughter whom I knew she loved so but I never got a chance to meet her. I want Brandi to know your Mom loved you Dearly and was extremely proud of you. I will miss her dearly!!

*Gwen Irish*

---

**Gwendolyn Irish** - August 09, 2015 at 06:34 PM

SH

“ I met Gwen thru my daughter, she encouraged her to always be the best, and to this day my daughter has a great job, She took the advice as it was given, she saw Gwen being a go get person, I am so happy she was a part of my daughter's life. S.H.

---

**Sherry H.** - August 07, 2015 at 10:14 PM

YS

“ I met Gwen only once and as I recall just for a few minutes. But as I remember meeting Gwen in those moments, I realize that we had so much in common. We were both single moms, our daughters were at University School of Milwaukee together, the girls were born within one day of each other and they both grew up as "an only child." The day we met we were outside of my home and we both were glowing with pride while snapping pictures of Brandi and Keysh as they headed to their first school prom. Gwen's smile was a mile long on that day as she beamed with joy over her beautiful daughter. I remember thinking that she was a good mom and really wanted the best for her daughter. Those few moments we spent together remains with me and I will always remember sharing what was obviously a very special day in her life. May you rest in peace Gwen and know that your daughter will always be in my prayers.

---

**Yvette Stokes** - August 06, 2015 at 01:39 PM

AP

“ My condolences to the family. Gwen was a good friend and I remember going out with her for pizza at ARJs on 93rd and Capital. It was because of her that I meet my Milwaukee family and I am forever grateful to her. You will be missed.

Love,

*Ann Patz*

---

**Ann Patz** - August 05, 2015 at 11:52 AM