



Gwendolyn Redus

November 14, 2023

Gwendolyn Sojourner Davis was the heart and soul of New Orleans, a woman of immeasurable character, a zest for learning and exploring the world and a deep devotion to family, Gwendolyn led a life that inspired all who crossed her path.

Born on September 24th, 1941 in Independence Louisiana, Gwen was one of three children by Mildred Parker Davis and James Wilson Davis Sr. The last remaining sibling, Gwen was predeceased by her brothers Jessie Wilson Davis Jr. and Michael Jerome Davis.

A family devoted to excellence in education, it was no surprise that education became Gwen's life's passion. She completed her primary education at the Brook Haven Graded School and went on to Greenville High School in Hammond Louisiana graduating in April 7, 1958. She furthered her education by earning a B.S. at the Agricultural and Industrial State University June of 1966 and in addition receiving her master's degree of Science at Tennessee State University on June 2, 1973.

On March 12th, 1971 Gwen married James Thomas Redus. Together they had one son, Jaymes Thomas Redus II. She also acquired two stepchildren, Michael Redus, and Sharon Redus.

Gwen was committed to bettering future generations. An impassioned educator, she founded Kiddie Kampus, a primary school empowering Black and underprivileged youth in New Orleans. Gwen was so proud of the school and the kids, Kiddie Kampus became a pillar of the community, successfully graduating over thousands of children into middle school. The school kept its doors open and ran successfully for over 20 years.

Furthering her passion for history, Gwen became a licensed tour guide specializing in the history of New Orleans jazz, The French Quarter, plantation, and swamp tours.

A spirited and knowledgeable historian of New Orleans culture, Gwen's tours were so impactful she drew repeat visitors time and time again. Her passion for history extended into her personal life where she relentlessly pursued an understanding of her own family history.

Also, an avid traveler Gwen traversed widely, making multiple trips to Africa, her favorite continent.

She was a member of many notable organizations, the BBC destination management, the teachers retirement system of Louisiana, and her beloved sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Gwen lived a full life of 83 years. Her time sunset on this earth on November 16th, 2023 in New Orleans, LA....but her spirit will live with us forever.

She is survived by loved ones dedicated to continuing her legacy: her loving son Jaymes Thomas Redus II and her grandchildren Jaymes Thomas Redus III and Jayda Nicole Redus, (Michael Redus, and Sharon Redus) her niece, Deva Newman and daughter Tyler Newman, her daughter-in-law Natasha Redus and and family.

She is also survived by Stella Saunders, Sandra Gayle, Sean Davis, Toni Jones, John Hall, Michelle Parker, the Miles family and a host of family and friends.

Gwen will be lovingly remembered and dearly missed by her family and many friends.

Our heartfelt thanks to the medical and professional staff, to Byron Calvin, Delores Miles, Vinetta Dabney and family.

Arrangement by D. W. Rhodes Funeral Home, 3933 Washington Ave. Please visit

www.rhodesfuneral.com to sign the online guestbook.

Tribute Wall

OB

“Miss Gwen was an extraordinary woman and she was like a second mother to me! She was loving, nurturing, intelligent, strong willed, ambitious, loyal and lots of fun! I had the good fortune of meeting Miss Gwen in the French Quarter. We both owned tour companies and conducted tours. She really embraced me because she saw me as a young Black woman trying to make and she saw the extreme racism in the tour industry trying to block me at every turn. That made her want to befriend and encourage me even more. She used to always stop by my Voodoo Shop to visit and somehow on her way out she would always end up kindly volunteering her time as a salesperson. She would engage the guests with her delightful personality and she would proudly and loudly state state “VooooDoooo is a religion from Africaaa” and she sold quite a few items while she was there. It was fun to her and it gave her something to do. She just loved to be helpful. Of the thousands of wonderful things I could say about Miss Gwen, I will choose to focus on her love of Black people. If nothing else Miss Gwen was for Black People with her whole heart and soul. She looked forward to attending the Underground Railroad Convention annually. She fought vehemently for the rights of Black people and wanted to help Blacks in Africa and Haiti. She educated Black children through her illustrious Redus Kiddie Kampus. She taught them not just abc’s but a love of self and pride in who they were. I’m sure they still carry that pride and sense of self with them to this day! During the pandemic Miss Gwen and I grew incredibly close and we would sometimes talk 3-4 times per day. We would go out to eat often and in fact we spent her last Christmas 2022 together. Just the two of us. We went out to eat and came back to her house and played Hearts and laughed and talked for hours. She used to always push me and my husband to have kids so she would have someone to take to the children’s museum. Well Miss Gwen we will have them and take them to the museum and tell them about you while we’re there. I love you Miss Gwen and I will miss you forever. You were like my bonus Mom. Your kindness and loyalty will never be forgotten. You will live on through the countless lives you touched and made so much better, including mine. Rest In Peace My Dear

Friend 🕊️



Onassys Bloomberg - May 23, 2024 at 07:44 PM

EA

“ *To the family.... Death leaves a heartache no one can heal. Love leaves memories no one can steal. May the memories of your love one and God's love warm your heart and give you comfort. God's peace, Eugenia*

Eugenia Foster Adams - December 31, 2023 at 12:54 PM