



## Gail Atkins

May 31, 1949 - August 9, 2025

Gail was born on May 31, 1949, in Detroit, Michigan, to Grim Edwin Clemons Sr. and Charlie Mae Berkley. She was a cherished daughter, mother, sister, aunt, grandmother, and friend. A proud graduate of the Detroit public school system, Gail furthered her education by attending cosmetology school in Detroit, where she discovered her passion for hairstyling. She passed away peacefully at the age of 76 on August 9, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of love, joy, and family that touched countless lives. She was preceded in death by her beloved sisters, Pondalon and Gloria Dowdy, and her brothers, Derrick and Sterling Clemons.

Gail's vibrant spirit, creative talent, and strong sense of family defined her remarkable life. Growing up in Detroit during the height of Motown, she became well-known for her exceptional dancing skills, commanding the dance floor wherever she went. A celebrated hairstylist—professionally known as Crystal Gail—she began her career in Detroit, where she perfected her craft before moving to St. Louis, Missouri. There, she became the proud owner of her own hair salon, creating a welcoming environment that transcended beauty services. Her salon was a true community hub, where her warmth and artistry transformed clients into lifelong friends. Her reputation for excellence even led her to style the hair of none other than Oprah Winfrey.

Gail's creativity flourished beyond the salon, evident in her love for interior

design, gardening, dance, and cooking. Known for her glamorous style, Gail infused joy into every aspect of her life, making everyday moments sparkle with her unique flair.

After leaving St. Louis, Gail settled in Cincinnati, Ohio, fully embracing her cherished role as "Granny Wanny" to her adored grandchildren, who were the light of her life. Her indomitable spirit and quick wit never faded, and she continued to bring laughter and love to all around her.

Gail's enduring warmth and infectious laughter will forever live on in the hearts of all who knew her. She brightened the lives of those around her, creating cherished memories that will inspire and uplift generations to come.

Gail is survived by her sons, Arthur Atkins and Melvin Lewis Pickard (Nicole); her cherished grandchildren, Daniel Atkins, Marley Pickard, Nicolas Pickard, and Melvin "MJ" Pickard Jr.; her sisters, Beverly Coleman and Patricia Halsell (James) Richardson; her brother, Hassan El-Amin; and a host of nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

# Previous Events

## Family/Friends Time

AUG **24**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
24585 Evergreen Rd  
Southfield, MI 48075  
(248) 702-5367  
info@kempfh.com  
<https://www.kempfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

AUG **24**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
24585 Evergreen Rd  
Southfield, MI 48075  
(248) 702-5367  
info@kempfh.com  
<https://www.kempfuneralhome.com>

## Repast

AUG **24**. 4:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church - Detroit  
21200 Southfield Rd.  
Southfield, MI 48075

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Livestreamed Funeral Service in memory of Gail Atkins*



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**Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services** - August 24, 2025 at 01:52 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gail Atkins.*



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August 22, 2025 at 09:47 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gail Atkins.

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August 22, 2025 at 09:47 PM



“ *Daniel and Erin purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Gail Atkins.*



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**Daniel and Erin** - August 22, 2025 at 07:05 PM

GC

“ Gregory Clayton purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Gail Atkins.



Gregory Clayton - August 22, 2025 at 05:50 PM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gail Atkins.



August 21, 2025 at 03:23 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gail Atkins.

August 21, 2025 at 03:23 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Gail Atkins.



August 21, 2025 at 03:01 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gail Atkins.

August 21, 2025 at 03:01 PM

KM

“ *Kilroy Family McDonald's purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Gail Atkins.*



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**Kilroy Family McDonald's** - August 21, 2025 at 11:22 AM

YM

“ *Your Columbus McFamily purchased the Pretty P lease for the family of Gail Atkins.*



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**Your Columbus McFamily** - August 21, 2025 at 08:54 AM