



## Gladys Mae Velez

September 10, 1951 - December 8, 2023

### Obituary for Gladys Mae Velez

Gladys Mae Velez passed away peacefully on December 8, 2023, at Memorial Hospital in Tennessee, with her family at her side. She was born on September 10, 1951, in Greenville, Alabama to the late Jim and Mary Lee Williams Fanning. Gladys graduated from Southside High school in her hometown in 1969 and stayed closely connected to her network of friends. After graduating, she moved to Stamford, CT, to be close to her Peterson family and had her first son. Later, she met the love of her life, and had another daughter and son. General Electric Capital was her last employer before moving to Tennessee for 14 years.

Gladys was a faithful servant of the Lord and active member of Greater Faith Tabernacle Baptist Church. During her tenure, she served as a Deaconess, Sunday school teacher, Voices of Joy Choir advisor, and was a Black Heritage Choir member, to name a few.

In her pastime, she enjoyed cooking and baking (sweet potato pie was her favorite), hosting events, shopping for shoes and hats, and being a devoted wife and mother. In her later years she gained a great sense of humor and would tell you like it is.

Her legacy of love will be treasured by her husband of 44 years , David E. Velez; her daughter, Tiffany Velez Rodgers; two sons, Travis Fanning and Marcus Velez; two grandsons, Brennan Ridley and Richard ‘RJ” Rodgers, Jr.; her sister, Geanetta Fanning; her brother, Jimmy Fanning (Frances); sister-in-law who she was very close to, Rose Velez-Smith; her goddaughter, Taylor Hill; her beloved family, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Gladys was also predeceased by her brother, Julian Fanning.

Gladys’ favorite saying was “Be Encouraged.” She shared it with everyone she encountered.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, December 19, 2023, from 10:00 – 11:00 am, followed by a service of celebration at 11:00 am at Greater Faith Tabernacle Baptist Church, 27 Baxter Avenue, Stamford, CT, Interim Pastor Rev. Winton Hill, III and Rev. Johnny C. Bush, eulogist. Interment will follow at Spring Grove Cemetery, Darien, CT. Live streaming will be shared via Graves Medley Funeral Services – Facebook account starting @ 10:45 am.

# Cemetery Details

## Spring Grove Cemetery

41 Hecker Ave.  
Darien, CT

# Tribute Wall

JW

“ Dave, so sorry to hear about the passing of Gladys. Love u and your family.

John Walker - December 23, 2023 at 08:55 AM

SK

“ Sending love and prayers to you and your family during this difficult time . Rest in peace aunt Gladys Love Shawna Kemp & family



Shawna Kemp - December 20, 2023 at 09:35 PM

PE

“ Pamela Wilson Edwards lit a candle in memory of Gladys Mae Velez



Pamela Wilson Edwards - December 20, 2023 at 07:30 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gladys Mae Velez.



December 18, 2023 at 01:05 PM

KF

“ Kimberly Smith and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gladys Mae Velez.

Kimberly Smith and Family - December 18, 2023 at 01:05 PM

MA

“ I'm sure I speak for all neighbors in Front Gate in sending heartfelt condolences to the entire Velez family. May the memories of Gladys bring peace in the days ahead.  
Cheryl and Steve Martin

martin - December 16, 2023 at 08:42 AM

MF

“ My Deepest Condolences to the family. I will miss my friend of over 20 years. When I called and we talked, mostly about the food that David would cook for her or the hats that she would wear to church. She was always happy no matter what her condition was. She will truly be missed. Rest in Peace my Dear Friend. ❤️❤️🙏🙏

Mabel Ferrell - December 15, 2023 at 08:57 PM



“ Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gladys Mae Velez.



December 15, 2023 at 10:09 AM