



Mrs. Gloria D. Nowlin

November 27, 1948 - November 12, 2025

Gloria Dean Davis Nowlin was born on November 27, 1948, in Forrest City, Arkansas. She was the second-born daughter of her loving parents, T. L. and Gustavia Davis. She graduated from Lincoln High School in 1967. A couple of years after graduation, she joined the “great migration” that many Southerners undertook, arriving in Chicago in 1968 with her eldest daughter, Delicia Davis, in tow.

Working various jobs to survive in the Big City, including Montgomery Ward, Sears, and the post office, she met and fell in love with Charles Nowlin Jr. She was married while carrying her firstborn son, Afro Davis. Determining that the regular 9 to 5 wasn’t in her spirit, she became one of the first Black female street vendors on the South Side of Chicago. It was what fed her spirit and helped her to endure her life.

A vibrant and outspoken woman, completely non-conventional, she wove her way through tremendous trenches. Never one to give up or become disgruntled with life, she went on to bear three other children: Mandrell Davis, the son of her union with Herman Houston; and two daughters, Tashee Gregory and Jovita Adkins, the children from her twenty-six-year relationship with Roosevelt Polk.

The family into which she was born molded her heart and had a profound

impact on the way she approached life. It was this foundation that led her to dedicate her life to her children and grandchildren. She would want to be remembered as a woman who never capitulated to the whims of oppression.

Gloria was a firm believer in the power of the Lord and regularly attended Willis Temple Church of God in Christ, the church founded by her Popa, the late Andrew Willis. She transitioned from this life to the next realm on November 12, 2025.

She was preceded in death by her father, T. L. Davis; her mother, Gustavia Davis; her brothers, Othela Rucker, William Rucker, and L. T. Davis; and her sister, Alberta Winston.

Gloria's memories will be cherished by her daughters, Delicia Davis, Tashee Gregory, and Jovita Adkins; her sons, Afro Davis and Mandrell Davis; her brothers, Walter Lee Davis (Ethel), Stanley Joe Davis, Melvin Davis, and David Davis; her sisters, Winfrey Taylor and Jeanatte Spearmon; 16 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends. Her unwavering devotion to family, her joyful spirit, and the countless fond memories she created will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

Cemetery Details

Casteel Cemetery

Highway 70 West & CR 221
Forrest City, AR 72335

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **21**. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Miles J. Kimble Mortuary & Cremation
1900 South Washington Street
Forrest City, AR 72335
(870) 633-1914
mjkimble@yahoo.com
<http://www.mjkmortuaryandcremation.com>

Service

NOV **22**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Willis Temple Church of God in Christ
407 South Second Street
Madison , AR 72359

The family will line up at the funeral home 1900 South Washington Street, Forrest City, AR 72335, on the day of the service. Everyone is expected to be ready to leave by 11:30 AM.

Repast

NOV **22**. 2:30 PM (CT)

Thomas Health and Wellness Center
942 N Washington Street
Forrest City , AR 72335

Tribute Wall

JK

“ Jackie King-White lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gloria D. Nowlin



Jackie King-White - November 26, 2025 at 11:50 AM

AH

“ Sending my love, hugs and prayers. Annette Holmes, Charlene Gladys Mae Dyer Holmes Daughter.



Annette Holmes - November 22, 2025 at 10:42 AM

IM

“ Irene Moore sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Gloria D. Nowlin



Irene moore - November 22, 2025 at 09:10 AM

ST

“ Nowlin family and friends. Heartfelt condolences to you at this time of bereavements. Praying for comfort strength and peace today and the days ahead 🙏

Shirley Williams Thorn - November 21, 2025 at 07:03 PM

FA

“ *Felicia Adkins lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gloria D. Nowlin*



Felicia Adkins - November 21, 2025 at 06:33 PM



“ *Marilyn Reeves sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Gloria D. Nowlin*



Marilyn Reeves - November 21, 2025 at 03:19 AM

TW

“ *Tamika White lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gloria D. Nowlin*



Tamika White - November 20, 2025 at 08:07 PM

LH

“ *Lovie A. Hardrick sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Gloria D. Nowlin*



Lovie A. Hardrick - November 20, 2025 at 07:28 PM

AD

“ April Davis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gloria D. Nowlin



April Davis - November 20, 2025 at 09:47 AM

LL

“ My condolences to the family of my classmate and church member, Gloria Dean Davis Nowlin. The comfort of God is with you. Lillie Lane

Lillie Lane - November 20, 2025 at 09:46 AM

JS

“ Jeanette Spearmon lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gloria D. Nowlin



Jeanette Spearmon - November 19, 2025 at 06:11 PM

BN

“ BRIAN ROSS- NEPHEW purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Mrs. Gloria D. Nowlin.



BRIAN ROSS- NEPHEW - November 19, 2025 at 05:51 PM

DM

“ A word of comfort and of hope, that in your deepest sorrow, you will find new strength and peace of mind and courage for tomorrow.” Please know that you are in our prayers.



Sending condolences to the family of Gloria Dean Davis Nowlin on behalf of The Lincoln High School - Maroon & Gold National Alumni Association, Inc. (MGNAAI), Forrest City, Arkansas. Gloria was a member of the Lincoln High School Class of 1967.”

*Delores Farr Morelon
President, MGNAAI*

Delores Farr Morelon - MGNAAI - November 19, 2025 at 04:53 PM

L1

“ We, the Lincoln High School Class of 1967, send our deepest condolences to the family of our classmate, Gloria Davis Nowlin. May God continue to keep his arms around each of you.



Lincoln High School Class of 1967 - November 19, 2025 at 04:01 PM

KL

“ Katherine Lyons sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Gloria D. Nowlin



Katherine Lyons - November 19, 2025 at 02:33 PM



“ *The love and memories that a family has for their loved one is stronger than anything, only God holds a higher place, my cousin from brother and sister of the Davis lineage. Cousin Dean you will be missed, but your memories, good hearted spirit will remain within the family. Galatians chapter 5:22-23 Njkv...*



Smitty Gee - November 19, 2025 at 02:10 PM

DB

“ *Dorothy Blanchett Bell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gloria D. Nowlin*



Dorothy Blanchett Bell - November 19, 2025 at 01:50 PM

FB

My auntie will be truly missed. Her smile, her laughter and her greens. She was great person. Never seen without a smile.

Felicia Davis Bryant - November 20, 2025 at 03:13 PM