

## With Gratitude from The Patterson Family

The family of Gwendolyn wishes to thank everyone for the intentional acts of love & outpouring of kindness which have been extended during this time. Your love, support and kindness have been comforting and a blessing



Transitional Care Arrangements Entrusted  
**J.E. Washington Funeral Services**  
2234 Glenwood Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511  
330.782.8500

A memorial card for Gwendolyn C. Patterson. It features a central portrait of her, surrounded by decorative elements like butterflies, flowers, and torn paper. The text includes her name, dates (1951-2026), and funeral service details. The card is set against a background of newspaper clippings and decorative paper.

*In Loving Memory*

**Gwendolyn C Patterson**  
1951 - 2026

**Tuesday, March 31, 2026**  
Graveside services: 11:00am  
Belmont Park Cemetery  
3346 Belmont Avenue  
Youngstown, Ohio 44505

**J.E. WASHINGTON**  
FUNERAL SERVICES, INC.

*The Life & Legacy of  
Gwendolyn "CheChe" Carol Patterson*

**G**wendolyn "CheChe" Carol Patterson was born on July 13, 1951, the second-born child of John and Odessa Patterson (née Coleman) in Youngstown. Gwendolyn passed away on March 23, 2026, at the age of 74 after a brave fifteen-year battle with breast cancer surrounded by the love and presence of her family.

As the eldest daughter, CheChe was seen as both a sister and a loving caregiver to her younger siblings. She spent her childhood on the city's North Side and graduated from The Rayen School in 1967. Gwendolyn was a talented student and excelled, particularly in mathematics.

In pursuit of broader horizons, Gwendolyn relocated to Washington, D.C., where she was joined by her younger brother, Lawrence Smith. During her time in the capital, she became an active participant in the Civil Rights Movement, passionately advocating for equality and justice for all.

Gwendolyn returned to Youngstown in the mid-1970s and embraced her role as a devoted mother when she welcomed her son, Terence C. "Terry" Gamble. As a grandmother, she cherished every moment spent with Tera-Jae Gamble and Shautanae Howard, imparting her love and wisdom to the next generation.

Gwendolyn was also a faithful church member and contributed regularly to the ministry of her former church home, Hillman Street Church of Christ. She was a longtime employee of Dillard's at Southern Park Mall and was known for her eye for fashion, often giving tips to both customers and loved ones.

A woman of tenacity and spirit, Gwendolyn inspired those around her with her unwavering belief in their potential. She knew how to motivate those around her to believe in themselves through her advocacy, intellect, and genuine kindness.

Gwendolyn delighted in activities that challenged her mind, often immersing herself in crossword puzzles, word searches, cryptograms, and the study of scripture. Tech-savvy and engaged with the world around her, she enjoyed connecting through text messages and mobile games.

Gwendolyn leaves behind a legacy of precious memories shared with her loving son, granddaughters, and a multitude of nieces, nephews, and friends who were touched by her kindness and love.

As Gwendolyn's faith became sight, she joins her parents, siblings John Patterson III, Lawrence Smith, Willis Smith, and Michele A. Holmes in eternity. Reflecting on CheChe's life, we have this confidence, *"to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord."*

*– Lovingly Shared by The Family-*