



Joyce D Gilpin

June 25, 1938 - December 23, 2022

Joyce D. Gilpin, 84, of Dowagiac and formerly of Coloma, died Friday, December 23, 2022, at Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo.

Services celebrating her life will be held at 1 PM on Tuesday, January 3, at the Dowagiac Missionary Baptist Church where she was a member. Burial will follow the service in Riverside Cemetery in Dowagiac. The visitation will be held from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM on Monday, January 2, at the Davidson Chapel of Florin Funeral Service in Coloma. The Coloma Order of the Eastern Star #307 will perform their rites at 7 PM on Monday at the Davidson Chapel. Memorials may be made to the Dowagiac Missionary Baptist Church Building Fund. Please share memories or messages at www.florin.net.

Joyce was born on June 25, 1938 in Wayne Township to James and Lillie Stevens. She grew up in Dowagiac and graduated from Dowagiac High School in 1956. After graduation Joyce attended the Central Baptist College in Conway AR. She married her husband, Gary H. Gilpin, in 1957 and together they have celebrated 64 years of marriage. Joyce was a longtime member and a Past Matron of the Coloma Order of the Eastern Star #307. She was also a member of the Worthy Matron's Club and a member of the Coloma Lioness Club. Joyce was a Past President of the Coloma American Legion Auxiliary #362. She started employment with Florin Funeral Service in 1969. She soon became the Corporate Administrator which was position which she

held for over 25 years. She became “Mama Joyce” to the staff. Joyce was an energetic and detailed individual. She loved her position with Florin Funeral Service and contributed her time and energy. Joyce also loved her family. She will be missed by all who came in contact with her.

Her family includes her husband, Gary; her son, James, of Dowagiac; her 3 brothers, Carl Stevens of Niles, Martin Everette of Maryville, TN and Elmer Stevens of Dowagiac; her sister, Nellie Livingston of Grand Rapids; her sister-in-law Rosemary Brooks of Dowagiac and her many nieces and nephews. Her family also includes the staff of Florin Funeral Service. She was preceded in death by her parents, and her sister, Reba Davis.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery

Dowagiac, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 2. 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Davidson Chapel of Florin Funeral Service
249 East Center Street
Coloma, MI 49038
(269) 468-3181
staff@florin.net

Eastern Star Ritual

JAN 2. 7:00 PM (ET)

Davidson Chapel of Florin Funeral Service
249 East Center Street
Coloma, MI 49038
(269) 468-3181
staff@florin.net

Services Celebrating Her Life

JAN 3. 1:00 PM (ET)

Dowagiac Missionary Baptist Church
54970 M-51 N.
Dowagiac, MI

Burial

JAN 3. 3:00 PM (ET)

Riverside Cemetery
Dowagiac, MI

Tribute Wall

JF

“ With heartfelt sympathy to Joyce's family. God bless you.



Josephine Doss-Smith & Family - January 02, 2023 at 10:50 AM

RS

“ Aunt Joyce told me many times that I was the flower girl in her wedding, and she made the dress I wore. Unfortunately, I have no memory of this as I was less than 3 years old. I am glad it meant a lot to Aunt Joyce. She will be missed.
Ruth Stauffer

Ruth Stauffer - December 31, 2022 at 04:16 PM

MS

“ We were living at the Beebe Farm north of Dowagiac when my sister, Joyce, was born in our home. I was 7 years old when she was born. Being 7 years apart we didn't play together much. I played with my older brother Carl.

Joyce went to a Christian college at Conway Arkansas for 1 year. She came back home and in August 1957 she married Gary Gilpin. I helped officiate with Pastor Harmon in their wedding at Dowagiac Missionary Baptist Church. Now my son David is officiating at her funeral. My daughter Ruth Ann was the flower girl in the wedding, even though she was less than 3 years old at the time. I think Joyce made the dress for Ruth.

Their son Jim was born in 1960. She and Gary went to work for Florin Funeral Home. They seemed to enjoy the Florin family and their work. My wife, Joyce, and I enjoyed Joyce and Gary's stories of their work in the funeral home.

Joyce and Gary attended the DMBC where James Davis is now the pastor. James is the son of one of my other sisters who has also passed away, Reba.

We would gather for Christmas and Thanksgiving at the Stevens home 204 E. High Street. Dowagiac, MI. Both my wife Joyce and I have pleasant memories of our sister Joyce and her sweet nature. Martin Everette Stevens – an older brother

Martin E. Stevens - December 31, 2022 at 12:27 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Joyce D Gilpin.*



December 31, 2022 at 09:24 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Joyce D Gilpin.*



December 30, 2022 at 11:10 PM



“ *The families of Martin Everette Stevens purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Joyce D Gilpin.*



The families of Martin Everette Stevens - December 29, 2022
at 09:20 PM



“ *As I was growing up I remember thinking how pretty Aunt Joyce was. I also loved her kindness and her sense of humor. Her love for her dogs also warmed my heart. I'll miss her very much but I know I'll see her again in Heaven.*

Sherry Collier - December 29, 2022 at 06:52 PM

ST

“ One of my sweetest memories of Aunt Joyce is the fact that she always called me Sugar. I have no idea if she called everyone that she knew and loved by that sweet title or not; but it always made me feel sweet and special. I love you Aunt Joyce
Stephanie Truong

Stephanie Truong - December 29, 2022 at 06:27 PM

DS

“ 2 files added to the album Joyce Gilpin photos



David M Stevens - December 29, 2022 at 11:04 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joyce D Gilpin.



December 28, 2022 at 04:33 PM

BG

“ I am so sadden to see Joyce has passed. I worked for her for many years at the Dey-Florin Chapel in SJ. She was one of the best to work for. Patient, kind and always had a listening ear. You will be missed. Prayers of healing for all of the family.

Baugher-Bassett Gayle - December 28, 2022 at 03:29 PM

DA

“ So sorry for your families loss.

Donna Appel-Schramm - December 28, 2022 at 12:48 PM

DS

“ My dear Aunt Joyce is missed indeed. Her presence was delightful. I am honored to serve as officiant of her funeral celebration of life at her request. Please pray for her husband Gary and son Jim.

We are still celebrating the 12-day feast of Christmas! We read in Luke 2:10-14 " 10 But the angel said to them, (the shepherds in the field)

'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for ALL people:

11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, (that is The Christ, the Anointed) the Lord. (Our Leader.)

12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth; Peace, (shalom – that is saved, healed, delivered, set free, made whole in every way!) and Goodwill (God's will) among (ALL) people.

Joyce is at peace, shalom. We will see you again soon Aunt Joyce.

David Stevens - December 28, 2022 at 08:55 AM