



Gloria Laval Taylor

March 9, 1937 - November 18, 2023

Gloria Laval Taylor was born on March 9, 1937, to the late Roland Norton and Gertrude Strickland in St. Louis, Missouri. She was the oldest of Gertrude's eleven children and was preceded in death by four younger siblings, Joyce Strickland, Robert Strickland Jr., Henry Norton, and Phyllis Strickland.

Gloria was baptized at St. Ann Catholic Church. She was a staunch believer of the faith and lived by the power of prayer. As an elder, she attended mass regularly at St. Alphonsus "Rock" Church, where she was an active and loyal parishioner for over thirty years.

Gloria was raised by her grandmother, Anna Goodlet Johnson, whom she lovingly called "Momma." Momma instilled in Gloria the values, sense of community, and moral compass she would personify, embody, and teach throughout the rest of her life.

She received her education from the St. Louis Public Schools system, where she graduated from Sumner High School in 1953 with honors at the age of sixteen. She studied at Fontbonne University until 1955.

She was united in marriage to King L. Taylor Sr. in 1955. To their union, four children were born. He preceded them in death on October 26, 1986.

Gloria believed in the power of passion and purpose led by God's

omniscience. "If you just listen, he'll lead you in the right direction," she'd say. As a social entrepreneur passionate about teaching and helping people, she spent most of her career in higher education and social services, including Washington University, UM-St. Louis (UMSL), and Lutheran Family Services. During that time, she also started her own business called "In-Fashion Boutique," which was open from 1973 to 1976.

In 1988, her life's purpose came full circle when she co-founded Community Women Against Hardship (CWAH) with her long-time friend Betty Lee. Both had worked for the chancellor of UMSL, Marguerite Ross Barnett, an internationally known political scientist and national leader in higher education.

Armed with the principles Momma taught her, the mission was clear: help uplift African American women-led households out of poverty, enabling them to return the deed in kind. Like most successful businesses, she started servicing families from her home. However, during Gloria's tenure as Chief Executive Officer of CWAH, she bought the old Cole School Building on 3963 W. Belle Place for \$1. Then, she raised over \$800,000 to renovate the building and two transitional housing units.

Gloria received numerous local, national, and international awards for her service to the community, including the Classic Women Award from Traditional Home, Salute to Excellence in Health Care from the St. Louis American Newspaper, and the Distinctive Women's Award from the Missouri Lottery to name a few.

Gloria loved spending time with family and friends and listening to Jazz! She attributed her success to staying faithful to God and herself. She departed this life for heaven on Saturday, November 18, 2023. She will be remembered as a dynamic woman with a gift for storytelling and oratory, who committed her life to helping people simply by applying the lessons Momma taught her. Her

commitment to family, friends, and the families she served was unwavering. Gloria never fretted or cared about financial security or capital gain, but rather the uplifting of the community and positively impacting people's lives. She was a civil activist, servant, and warrior against poverty and oppression.

She leaves to cherish her memories four children: King L. Taylor Jr., Cynthia Clay (Damon), Stephanie Muldrow (Paul), and Jeffrey L. Taylor Sr. (Tiffany); two grandchildren: Ryan K. Taylor and Jeffrey L. Taylor Jr.; Five siblings: Hester Johnson, Adrian Strickland, Sharon Camp (Kevin), Beverly Harvey (Dale), Judy McCray (Courtney), and Michael Strickland; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **29**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Alphonsus Liguori Rock Catholic Church
1118 North Grand
St. Louis, MO 63106

Service

NOV **29**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Alphonsus Liguori Rock Catholic Church
1118 North Grand
St. Louis, MO 63106

Interment

NOV **29** (CT)

St. Peters Cemetery
2101 Lucas and Hunt Rd
St. Louis, MO 63121

Tribute Wall



“ Gloria Taylor was a beautiful soul and the world was lucky to have her here. I was extremely honored to work for and with her at CWAH. We shared so many conversations about everything. I feel blessed to have known her. She was a very special person. I miss her.



M - October 17, 2025 at 09:07 AM



“ Lighting a candle, the rose candle for Gloria because she was a “ROSE” in our community.
RIP Gloria
Gregory Glore



Gregory Glore - December 09, 2023 at 07:46 AM



“ Judy McCray lit a candle in memory of Gloria Laval Taylor



Judy McCray - December 06, 2023 at 11:28 AM



“ I remember as a single mother with two children, when Community Women Against Hardship came to my home and assisted me by opening up possibilities for us. They took us camping and provided my children with Christmas gifts.
 The greatest gift was the interaction between the staff, me and my children. I was truly blessed.
 I also remember with their encouragement being
 A success story.

Ivory M Hill - December 05, 2023 at 04:05 PM



This was over twenty years ago and I am truly blessed that her organization helped me to be the person I am today

Ivory M Hill - December 05, 2023 at 04:07 PM



“ A solid rock of the Saint Louis community for many years who was selfless and giving to those less fortunate. I bid you farewell Ms. Taylor for a job well done. Rest in Paradise.

Myron Lofton - December 01, 2023 at 11:54 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Gloria Laval Taylor.



November 27, 2023 at 06:22 PM

JD

“ Thank you Gloria for your caring and helping of others. You created a fantastic place for reaching out to the area youth and their families. We all will greatly miss you. Our deepest sympathy to the family. Jerry & Christine Doud

Jerry Doud - November 26, 2023 at 10:10 PM

KR

“ Hello family my name is Karla Reed my mother name is Karen Thomas Hall we where apart of this commmunity since my children where babies I want to thank you granny Taylor for everything and because of you I open my own domestic violence shelter for women and children I will always cherish our talks and all the memories I have of you we love you and thank you ❤️❤️

Karla Reed - November 25, 2023 at 12:32 PM

EM

“ I had the pleasure of meeting Gloria while working at St. Louis American Cab Company. We provided transportation to families and the young people involved in the music and tutoring program. I was blessed to be honored by CWAH at the Annual Gala. A lasting friendship was established. My sincere condolences to her children and the entire family and, Clarice and everyone involved with CWAH. Gloria will be missed. Her legacy lives on.



Ethel Miller - November 23, 2023 at 01:26 AM

YM

“ May God continue to keep family up in Love and Spirit i to share your lost meet Gloria in 1985 work with daughter Stephanie beautiful family Love to All

Yvonne Miller - November 22, 2023 at 02:31 PM

RC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Rose Camp - November 20, 2023 at 10:05 PM

KS

“ Ken McGhee & Archway Staff lit a candle in memory of Gloria Laval Taylor



Ken McGhee & Archway Staff - November 20, 2023 at 12:57 PM