



Gail Witsell Morrell

September 1, 1950 - September 16, 2025

Gail Gwendolyn Witsell was born on September 1, 1950, in Jacksonville, Florida, to Harold Witsell Sr. and Georgia Clay Witsell. As the second of five siblings, she radiated warmth, kindness, and a deep nurturing spirit from an early age. Gail was a steadfast source of support for her family, lovingly assisting her mother, a devoted middle school teacher.

Upon completion of Moncrief Elementary School, Gail continued at Northwestern Junior-Senior High School, where she followed her older brother Harold's footsteps both as a graduating senior and talented musician. She also proudly became a Majorette. When William M. Raines High School opened in 1965, Gail transferred and flourished, continuing as a majorette, joining the Thespian club, and excelling academically as an honors student. Her formative years were enriched by loyal friendships with Edna Boyd Jones, Joanne McLaughlin Williams, and her dearly missed friend the late Luella O'Neal. Bound by love to a large extended family, Gail shared close and joyful ties with many aunts, uncles, and cousins from the Witsell, Foster, Clay, Thayer, and Richardson families.

After graduating from Raines High School, Gail attended Florida A&M University, inspired by her cousin Harriet Witsell Bowens and her older brother Harold's academic achievements. In 1969, she pledged the Beta Alpha chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., quickly earning admiration for her

compassionate leadership and collaborative spirit. As Chapter President (Basileus) in 1970, she spearheaded community programs, offering heartfelt counseling to youth in need throughout Tallahassee.

It was during her studies at Florida A&M University that Gail met Joseph Morrell, her future husband, through a mutual friend, Ron Rogers. Gail earned her bachelor's degree with dual majors in biology and psychology, and upon graduating in 1972, she embraced a career with Amtrak in Jacksonville as a 4th-generation railroad employee, continuing her family's 100-year legacy of railroad service. Among the first generation of women and minorities in railroad management, Gail formed enduring friendships, ultimately becoming a regional supervisor over eleven train stations. With every step, she was guided by fairness, empathy, and insightful leadership.

Gail and Joseph married in 1974 at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Jacksonville; their union blossomed with love and mutual devotion. Following Joseph's graduation from law school in 1976, they remained briefly in Jacksonville before settling in Winter Springs, near Orlando, in 1980. Their greatest joys, sons Joseph Morrell Jr. (born in 1977) and Desmond Witsell Morrell (born in 1988), completed their loving family. As Gail balanced her professional responsibilities, she remained a beacon of hope and generosity in her community, helping establish the Altamonte Springs chapter of LINKS and initiating art and photography programs for children at the Boys and Girls Club.

In the mid-1990s, Gail faced the challenge of viral myocarditis, which caused permanent damage to her heart and placed her on the heart transplant list. Despite these hardships, her remarkable resilience and positive outlook touched everyone around her. Gail underwent LVAD surgery in 2016 and continued to inspire others by serving as a representative for the University of Florida's cardiac program and sharing her story publicly in commercials, on

billboards, and in countless medical pamphlets.

After 46 cherished years together, Gail's beloved husband Joseph passed away in November 2020. Through grief, Gail's unwavering love and strength shone brighter than ever, especially for her four treasured granddaughters, whom she cherished and spent countless hours laughing with, cheering for, and loving on. She inspired all of us as she managed her cardiac condition for 27 years. On September 16, 2025, at the age of 75, Gail passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by love and admiration.

She is predeceased by her loving husband, Attorney Joseph Morrell Sr.; her father, Harold Witsell Sr.; and her brother, Harold Witsell Jr.

Gail leaves behind a devoted family: her sons, Dr. Joseph Morrell Jr. and Attorney Desmond W. Morrell (Attorney Paula); her granddaughters, Ella Morrell, Olivia Morrell, Liliana Morrell, and Ava Morrell; her mother, Georgia Clay Witsell; brother, Anthony Witsell (Cynthia); sisters, Patti Moore and Debra Council (Wayne); aunts Christella Witsell Bryant and Loye Jean King; uncle Curtis Clay (Deloris); sisters-in-law: Tyra Witsell, Genell Thompson, Bettye Brown and Rosa Pitts; brothers-in-law: Major King, Paul Morrell and Roy Ray; and countless cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends who carry her memory in their hearts.

The legacy of Gail Gwendolyn Witsell lives on through the abiding love she gave to her family, the communities she lifted up, and all those whose lives she touched with her compassion and generous spirit.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 2. 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM (ET)

Christ Church
151 W. Church Avenue
Longwood, FL 32750

Service

OCT 3. 1:00 PM (ET)

The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist
1000 Bethune Drive
Orlando, FL 32805

Tribute Wall

EM

“ Praying that you all will find comfort in your memories and your faith.



Emily - October 03, 2025 at 12:10 PM

EM

“ Emily lit a candle in memory of Gail Witsell Morrell



Emily - October 03, 2025 at 12:06 PM

NF

“ Nakia Gause & Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gail Witsell Morrell.



Nakia Gause & Family - October 02, 2025 at 05:03 PM

NF

“ Nakia Gause & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gail Witsell Morrell.

Nakia Gause & Family - October 02, 2025 at 05:03 PM

NG

“ Our heartfelt condolences for the loss of your mother, we pray your faith will give you strength. Heaven has added an Angel. May her beautiful memories bring you comfort and peace . Nakia , Shaquese and Shandaya Gause .

Nakia Gause - October 02, 2025 at 04:36 PM

RH

“ Our Beautiful God Mother, Thank You for sharing your love & Light May You continue to radiate with grace from above. You Are Loved , Sought , Cared for. With Warm embraces - Royce Hall & Family '25

Royce Hall - October 02, 2025 at 11:42 AM

FF

“ From Patterson and Harris families purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Gail Witsell Morrell.



From Patterson and Harris families - October 01, 2025 at 11:13 PM



“ Beautiful Whisper was purchased for the family of Gail Witsell Morrell.



October 01, 2025 at 06:24 PM

RJ

“ Roger J. purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Gail Witsell Morrell.



Roger J. - October 01, 2025 at 05:01 PM

AR

“ Atlantic Radiology purchased the Finest Farewell Spray for the family of Gail Witsell Morrell.



Atlantic Radiology - October 01, 2025 at 04:20 PM

AR

“ Atlantic Radiology planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gail Witsell Morrell.

Atlantic Radiology - October 01, 2025 at 04:20 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gail Witsell Morrell.



October 01, 2025 at 02:50 PM

JC

“ Though we don't see cousins as much as we would like, we never ever forget the good times we had growing up. Gail was such a sweet and kind cousin who will be missed by all. Our prayers are with her family and Aunt Georgia. She is resting now in the arms of GOD 🙏.
Judy Clay-Jenkins & Wayne Jenkins and Jimmy & Mary Clay



Judy Clay-Jenkins - October 01, 2025 at 02:38 PM

SB

“ Sandra, James, James III Brookins purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Gail Witsell Morrell.



Sandra, James, James III Brookins - October 01, 2025 at 12:30 PM

SB

“ Sandra, James, James III Brookins planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gail Witsell Morrell.

Sandra, James, James III Brookins - October 01, 2025 at 12:30 PM

CH

“ Gail, your light will forever shine on all of us and you will always be in our hearts. Thank you for being in our lives. We Love You,
Cheryl and John Hill Family



Cheryl and John Hill - October 01, 2025 at 08:30 AM

CH

“ Cheryl Hill purchased the *Fairest of All* for the family of Gail Witsell Morrell.



Cheryl Hill - September 30, 2025 at 03:57 PM

11

“ 100 BLACK MEN OF GREATER ORLANDO, INC. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gail Witsell Morrell.

100 BLACK MEN OF GREATER ORLANDO, INC. - September 30, 2025 at 10:03 AM

11

“ 100 BLACK MEN OF GREATER ORLANDO, INC. purchased the *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* for the family of Gail Witsell Morrell.



100 BLACK MEN OF GREATER ORLANDO, INC. - September 30, 2025 at 10:03 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gail Witsell Morrell.

September 29, 2025 at 05:08 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Gail Witsell Morrell.*



September 29, 2025 at 05:08 PM



“ *Melody, Beverly and Michael Moore purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gail Witsell Morrell.*



Melody, Beverly and Michael Moore - September 29, 2025 at 04:21 PM



“ *Melody, Beverly and Michael Moore planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Gail Witsell Morrell.*

Melody, Beverly and Michael Moore - September 29, 2025 at 04:21 PM



“ *Jason Hayes and the Hayes Family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Gail Witsell Morrell.*

Jason Hayes and the Hayes Family - September 28, 2025 at 08:55 PM

JF

“ Jason Hayes and the Hayes Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Gail Witsell Morrell.



Jason Hayes and the Hayes Family - September 28, 2025 at 08:55 PM

FF

“ Frederica Dennis and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gail Witsell Morrell.

Frederica Dennis and Family - September 28, 2025 at 06:36 PM

FF

“ Frederica Dennis and Family purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Gail Witsell Morrell.



Frederica Dennis and Family - September 28, 2025 at 06:36 PM

LI

“ Love, Dr. and Mrs. Luther B. Adair II planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gail Witsell Morrell.

Love, Dr. and Mrs. Luther B. Adair II - September 23, 2025 at 05:15 PM

LI

“ Love, Dr. and Mrs. Luther B. Adair II purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gail Witsell Morrell.



Love, Dr. and Mrs. Luther B. Adair II - September 23, 2025 at 05:15 PM

IA

“ With Deepest Heartfelt Sympathy and Condolences To the Morrell's Family, My Prayer is That Almighty Creator God Jesus The Christ will continue to Bless Comfort Console Heal Strength You All Each Minute Moment hours second of each day doing and after this time of the Transition of your Love one. 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏



Imole Akinlana - September 23, 2025 at 09:53 AM

KC

“ Kevin Burke, for the whole Amtrak crew. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gail Witsell Morrell.

Kevin Burke, for the whole Amtrak crew. - September 22, 2025 at 09:32 PM

KC

“ Kevin Burke, for the whole Amtrak crew. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gail Witsell Morrell.



Kevin Burke, for the whole Amtrak crew. - September 22, 2025 at 09:32 PM

KB

“ I am so sorry to hear the news of Gail's passing. She was a much loved supervissor at the Orlando Amtrak station. She cared for everyone with love and kindness. She remained a friend after retirement and I will always cherish the memory of our reunion last year at her home. Sweet Gail, keep the light on for the rest of us. God Bless you.
Kevin Burke

Kevin Burke - September 22, 2025 at 09:26 PM

PD

“ Paul, Kimberly and Danyelle planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gail Witsell Morrell.

Paul, Kimberly and Danyelle - September 21, 2025 at 12:06 PM

PD

“ Paul, Kimberly and Danyelle purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Gail Witsell Morrell.



Paul, Kimberly and Danyelle - September 21, 2025 at 12:06 PM

IA

“ My Deepest Heartfelt Sympathy and Condolences go to the family My Prayer Is That Almighty Creator God Jesus The Christ Continue to Bless Comfort Console Heal Strength Gail W. Morrell children, grandchildren and Family members. May Almighty Creator Glory keep them in perfect peace. 🌸🌸🌸🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏

Imole Akinlana - September 21, 2025 at 10:57 AM

SH

Condolences to the Morrell Family. Mrs. Morrell was a special person who walked quietly and spoke eloquently and moved in love and kindness. She will be missed by all whom knew her. May she rest in peace in the presence of the Lord.

Shelia Hamm-Reid - September 22, 2025 at 10:52 AM

MS

“ *MONICA DENISE SCOTT lit a candle in memory of Gail Witsell Morrell*



MONICA DENISE SCOTT - September 21, 2025 at 10:46 AM

JM

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Joseph Morrell - September 21, 2025 at 07:57 AM

RJ

What a miracle !!! God is Great !!! My prayers are with you family, Rico Jackson

RICARDO W JACKSON - September 22, 2025 at 10:13 PM

PG

*God is an awesome God..!!
Gator's health care testament and God's love and peace. Continued prayers for Gail's family.
Classmate: Poinsettia Jackson Greene-Gainesville, Florida*

Poinsettia Jackson Greene - September 25, 2025 at 06:45 AM

AB

This video was very touching. Gail and I graduated high school together in 1968, we knew each other in school because we were in the same homeroom. After high school we all went our separate ways and surprisingly about 25 years later while I too was living in Orlando, I went into the Amtrak station to pick up a family member and to my surprise, I saw Gail there as the station manager. We greeted each other and reminisced over our high school days. After that I would stop by the station occasionally just to say hi. I moved back to Jacksonville and never saw Gail again. I was very sorry to hear of her passing; my deepest condolences go out to her family and friends.
Classmate: Anthony Bryant-Jacksonville, FL

Anthony Bryant - September 29, 2025 at 01:39 PM

LM

I just found out about your mom's passing today. I met her twice during Thanksgiving 2009 and she truly left a mark on my heart. She was such a sweetheart. I shed a tear hearing this news. I'm truly sorry for your loss and pray God's comfort and peace surround you and your family. She was resilient, and now she rests safely in the hands of our Lord and Savior. May she rest in perfect peace. Amen.

Lily

Lily M - February 21 at 12:10 PM

JM

“ 1 file added to the album *Gail Morrell Wake and Funeral Info*



Joseph Morrell - September 21, 2025 at 07:54 AM

TF

“ *The Harris Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gail Witsell Morrell.*



The Harris Family - September 20, 2025 at 07:23 PM