



## Naomi Gilyard

October 16, 1937 - June 21, 2025

Naomi Irena Bluford Gilyard, beloved mother, grandmother, and family member, peacefully departed this life on Saturday, June 21, 2025, at Prisma Health Richland Hospital in Columbia, South Carolina. She was 87 years old. Born on October 16, 1937, in Columbia, South Carolina, Naomi was the cherished daughter of the late Walter Bluford and Viola Stewart Bluford. She was the devoted wife of the late Levi John Gilyard, and from their loving union came two beautiful children, Cynthia and Melvin, who were the joy of her life. Naomi was educated in the public schools of Richland County, beginning at Blessed Martin Catholic School and later graduating from C.A. Johnson High School. She continued her pursuit of knowledge at Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina, where she earned her degree laying the foundation for a lifetime of service in education.

Her professional journey began at John G. Richardson School, and she later joined the Richland School District One, where she dedicated many years to shaping young minds. Her commitment, compassion, and quiet strength left an enduring impact on her students and colleagues. She retired from the district, having touched countless lives along the way.

Naomi was deeply involved in her community and found great joy in giving her time and energy to causes close to her heart. She had a love for traveling and cherished spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren, who were her pride and joy. Her warmth, her stories, her laughter, and her unwavering love will be missed.

She leaves to treasure her memory: her devoted daughter, Cynthia Thomas; her loving son, Melvin (Julia) Gilyard; a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren; as well as many family members who will carry her spirit forward in their hearts.

Though she is no longer with us in this life, Naomi's legacy of love, kindness, and strength will continue to live on through the lives she touched.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **25**. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel  
1200 Fontaine Place  
Columbia, SC 29223

## Funeral Service

JUN **26**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Peter's Catholic Church  
1529 Assembly Street  
Columbia, SC 29201  
[stpeters@visitspeters.org](mailto:stpeters@visitspeters.org)

## Interment

JUN **26** (ET)

Palmetto Cemetery  
5050 Fairfield Road  
Columbia, SC 29203

# Tribute Wall

GF

“ *Sending our deepest sympathy and condolences and prayers to the family and relatives and friends.*



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**Gloria Brown and Tammy Edwards and Famil** - June 27, 2025 at 04:52 AM

HA

“ *Our Deepest and Sincere Sympathy go out to Cynthia, Melvin and the Gilyard family. Mrs. Naomi was such a Beautiful Loving and Caring Lady.  
I will always remember her beautiful smile.  
She will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Gilyard family.*



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**Horace Anthony** - June 25, 2025 at 12:01 AM

KW

“ *Dear Cynthia and Melvin/Family-  
I'm sorry to hear about the passing of Cousin Naomi. Please accept my deepest condolences during this difficult time.  
May you find comfort in the beautiful memories you shared. May God be a source of strength and peace in the days ahead.  
Kassandra Collins Wilson*

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**Kassandra Wilosn** - June 24, 2025 at 10:37 PM

KW

“ *Kassandra and Bennie Wilson/Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Naomi Gilyard.*



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**Kassandra and Bennie Wilson/Family** - June 24, 2025 at 10:18 PM

JF

“ *Jackson family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Naomi Gilyard.*



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**Jackson family** - June 24, 2025 at 10:03 PM

JF

“ *Jackson family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Naomi Gilyard.*

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**Jackson family** - June 24, 2025 at 10:03 PM