



Shirley McGowan

July 26, 1940 - February 19, 2025

SHIRLEY ATKINS MCGOWAN was born Shirley Pillows in Chicago, IL on July 26, 1940.

As a child she would move to Cincinnati, Ohio, where she graduated from Catholic school. Shirley later met and married Jerry Atkins, Sr. To this union they had three beautiful children, Jerry, Gaila, and Gregory. Shirley would eventually move back to Chicago and work for 40 years as a Certified Nurse Assistant. Her compassion shown in the ways she always helped others.

After the loss of her son Jerry, she lovingly cared for her grandson Jerry, as only a grandmother would. Shirley was a strong-willed woman who loved socializing and could always make you laugh with her witty sense of humor. Shirley was a fashionista and known to her family and friends as a “bad mamma jamma”. Shirley would later meet and marry the love of her life, Theodore McGowan.

Shirley was preceded in death by her husband Theodore McGowan, her children, Gaila, Gregory, and Jerry Kenton; mother Ruby M. Pillows; and sisters Marie King and Evelyn Martin.

Shirley leaves to mourn her beloved grandson, Jerry Thomas, sister Virginia Meeks, and daughter-in-law Sheila Thomas. She was the grandmother-figure

of Laquita, Kenish, and Marshawan Thomas, and had great-grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Shirley McGowan passed away after a brief illness at The Grove Living and Rehab Center in Chicago on February 20, 2025. Services will be private, per Mrs. Shirley McGowans' wishes.

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-318-1305 or www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com.

Tribute Wall



“ 8 files added to the album Memories Album



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