



## Gladys Joann Akins

March 11, 1938 - September 23, 2018

Gladys Joann Akins, age 80, died Sunday, September 23, 2018 peacefully at her home in Madison Heights. "Joann," as she was known to her friends and family was born on March 11, 1938 in Lanesville, IL to John and Hanna (nee Finley) Wilkins. She was a homemaker and nanny to numerous children. From 1978 to 2005 she babysat and was a granny to so many children. She nannied to a couple of generations of children, most of whom she kept in contact with throughout the years. Joann and her husband, Reverend Charles D. Akins, were married for 44 years. He preceded her in death in 2003. Together, they raised three daughters and used their music ministry to bring many to the Lord. Their home was always filled with music. Her generous spirit and caring nature will be remembered by all who knew her. She is survived by her daughters Anna Swanson, Linda Brunke and Rebecca (Todd) Burris. Joann was the proud grandmother of Angela Stair (Andrew Louwaert), Jody (Michael II) Rose, Casey (Tom) Lahey and Johanna Burris, and great grandchildren Nina, Mikayla and Michael Rose III and Charlotte Louwaert. Dear sister of Melba (the late Bob) Daniel, the late John (Margaret, still living) Wilkins and Jimmy (Carol, still living) Wilkins. Also survived by many cousins and all of her "bonus" kids that she watched throughout the years. She considered you all of her "kids" and loved you all as if you were her own. She will be truly missed and never forgotten. A graveside committal will be held at 9 am on Saturday at Roseland Park Cemetery, Berkley. The family will receive friends on Saturday beginning at 11 am at Power and Praise Worship Center,

1405 E. Pearl, Hazel Park. A memorial service will begin at 11:15 am and lunch will be served at approximately 12:30 pm. The final prayer will take place immediately after lunch, with services concluding by no later than 3 pm on Saturday. In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests contributions to the wishes of the family for a future memorial. Share your memories at [www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com)

# Previous Events

## Committal Service

SEP **29**. 9:00 AM (ET)

Roseland Park Cemetery  
29001 Woodward Avenue  
Berkley, MI 48072

## Memorial Service

SEP **29**. 11:15 AM (ET)

Power and Praise Worship Center  
1405 E. Pearl Avenue  
Hazel Park, MI 48030

# Tribute Wall

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“ I met Joanne on a dreaded day. I was only 5 or 6 when I was brought over by my Mom. She was to be our new baby sitter. This was my worst nightmare. At my age I could raise myself, or so I thought. God had his own plans. Turned out I needed another Hānai Grandmother in my life. She taught me many things, respect, love, honesty, humility, not least of which discipline. She became one of the most important and influential people in my life. It's bitter sweet now. Knowing she's gone, yet still with us. Now living the perfect eternity in Heaven. Until we see you again,  
-Richard Greenough

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**Richard Greenough** - September 26, 2018 at 08:52 PM