



Gina Mari Rickman

August 25, 1961 - June 14, 2013

Gina Mari Rickman was an extraordinary woman who graced the lives of those who knew and loved her for far too short a time. Born August 25, 1961 to June Rosalee and Dennis Vandeleur Rickman, Gina was their third daughter. She attended Kalamazoo Public Schools, Eastern Michigan University, and recently graduated from Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Among her many talents was a way with figures that proved invaluable to her family and to the numerous organizations she helped run, including the Kalamazoo chapter of the NAACP/ACT-SO, Nice Shot Tennis Association, the Kalamazoo YMCA, and the National Congress of Black Women. A lifelong tennis player, enthusiast, and professional coach, Gina often won tournaments, and awards for her athletic excellence and sportsmanship. She also shared her joy in tennis and other athletic pursuits with her family and community; her sons Brandon Yale Johnson and Daniel Bryant Henry, and her daughters Brittany Shinel Johnson and Aaliyah Mari Hudson all play tennis, basketball, football, baseball, and other intramural sports. Brittany followed in her mother's footsteps by choosing a career as a tennis coach. Gina made dozens of African American and inner-city youth familiar with tennis terms, tools, and techniques through leading community classes and workshops.

An activist in the Food Justice Movement, Gina was important to establishing community gardens here on Kalamazoo's historically black Northside. She

contributed hours and labor to the 4-H Club. She volunteered for Kalamazoo's People's Food Cooperative and at Kalamazoo Central High School. She is survived by many loving relatives and friends

On a day-to-day level, Gina maximized every connection she made with the people she met, giving and receiving information essential for the highest good of every person she encountered. She was beautiful in all ways and at all times, kind, intelligent, and honest--a warrior for truth.

Gina was an amazing mother. She was also a devoted daughter, spending her adult decades in a shared household with her mother, making sure she was cared for and at the center of an invigorating daily life. She was a loving sister who supported Julie Anne Rickman and Denise Angela Shawl, her two older sisters, in their creative, emotional, and professional endeavors. She is survived by many loving relatives and friends. She was the heart of our family. Sadly for all, she passed away on June 13, 2013.

Previous Events

Service

JUN 18. 1:00 PM (ET)

Bible Baptist Church
1700 N. Drake Road
Kalamazoo, MI

Tribute Wall



“ *Gina Mari Rickman*

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ *Gina Mari Rickman*

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ *I was a neighbor and school friend of Gina's at South Junior High in the 1970's. We were cheerleaders and shared a similar sense of humor. I have often thought of her and hoped to reconnect--I am saddened to learn that she has passed. I ran into her in Ann Arbor around 1979. I think her sister was in school there. We talked for a bit about how we grew up...rest in peace Gina.*
Jocelyn Bullard

Jocelyn Bullard - August 10, 2018 at 10:50 PM



“ *Tammy Merkison lit a candle in memory of Gina Mari Rickman*



Tammy Merkison - June 20, 2013 at 01:07 PM

TH

“ we love Gina from Tiffany Samantha
Dominiquekha Sammy Tierra U will never be
forgotten



Tiffany Harmon - June 19, 2013 at 01:18 PM

LJ

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with family and friends. Sincerely,
Luther Jackson and family.

Luther Jackson - June 18, 2013 at 10:28 AM

LJ

“ Love family. Paul and Jeanne purchased the Mag
nolia Ann Tree for the family of Gina Mari
Rickman.



Love family. Paul and Jeanne - June 18, 2013 at 09:14 AM

TP

“ The Poole's lit a candle in memory of Gina
Mari Rickman



The Poole's - June 18, 2013 at 08:48 AM

TF

“ *The Poole Family lit a candle in memory of Gina Mari Rickman*



The Poole Family - June 18, 2013 at 08:47 AM

DD

“ *My friend, My sister...a very kind and compassionate person who always cared about others. Gina had a way of encouraging you to keep moving no matter what was going on in your life. I thank God for the relationship and for allowing her to be in my life. I have comfort in knowing that I will see her again. 2Corinthians 5:8 " We are confident, [I say], and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." Gina you are loved and will be dearly missed on this side....I will see you again!*

Darlene Daniels

Darlene Daniels - June 18, 2013 at 06:08 AM

KL

“ *Keanna Little lit a candle in memory of Gina Mari Rickman*



keanna little - June 17, 2013 at 08:42 PM

DS

“ *June you, your family, and Gina have been in my prayers*
joe schmitt

deacon joe schmitt - June 17, 2013 at 08:06 PM

YB

“ Praying for the family in the days ahead. May your memories of your mom make you smile in the midst of your sorrow.



Yonee Bryant-Kuiphoff - June 17, 2013 at 07:40 PM

MD

“ Mr. Stanley Drain lit a candle in memory of Gina Mari Rickman



Mr. Stanley Drain - June 17, 2013 at 04:53 PM

SF

“ Gina was such a beautiful soul with an infectious smile and laugh. She will be dearly missed in the tennis community. My sincerest condolences to her entire family.
Fondly,
Sheryl Farrell

Sheryl Farrell - June 17, 2013 at 02:30 PM

MP

“ I will always remember Gina as a kind and gentle person who genuinely cared for others and had a gift for making those whose lives she touched feel special and important. She will be greatly missed.

Misty Pfeiffer - June 17, 2013 at 01:33 PM

ST

“ Sarah Taylor lit a candle in memory of Gina Mari Rickman



Sarah Taylor - June 17, 2013 at 11:57 AM



“ Gina was a great tennis player and such a wonderful person. Always kind and encouraging to others. My heart aches for her family. She will be greatly missed.

Lisa Crandell - June 17, 2013 at 10:36 AM

AR

“ Anne Rajkovich lit a candle in memory of Gina Mari Rickman



Anne Rajkovich - June 17, 2013 at 09:18 AM

NW

“ National Congress Of Black Women lit a candle in memory of Gina Mari Rickman



National Congress of Black Women - June 17, 2013 at 08:20 AM

LB

“ Gina always had kind and positive words to say. I'll never forget the encouraging words of advice she gave to my ladies tennis team from the Maple YMCA as we headed off to a state playoff. One day when she was done playing and sitting on the bleachers next to me I noticed her tennis shoes were very worn and old. I mentioned that it might be time to get a new pair of shoes for the court. She stated, "Yeah, I know but the kids get their stuff their first. She was the kind of lady that could have been everybody's loving mom who needed one! I wish I could have talked with her more. We will miss her smiling face.

Lisa Betten - June 16, 2013 at 03:46 PM

BA

“ Barbara M. Allen lit a candle in memory of Gina Mari Rickman



Barbara M. Allen - June 15, 2013 at 06:19 PM

TT

“ We will always Love and miss you.

Tony M. Thompson - June 15, 2013 at 01:54 PM

AF

“ Arlene Buchanan And Family lit a candle in memory of Gina Mari Rickman



arlene buchanan and family - June 15, 2013 at 01:11 PM

AF

“ *Arlene Buchanan & Family lit a candle in memory of Gina Mari Rickman*



arlene buchanan & family - June 15, 2013 at 01:10 PM

MJ

I will always remember her smile and her wit. Such a sweet spirit. Praying God's comfort to the family.

Marcia Jones - June 17, 2013 at 07:30 AM

LC

Arlene you and your family are in my prayers.

Lillie Cotton - June 19, 2013 at 07:36 AM