Thank you for silencing all electronic devices.
The great ones endure, and Gladys Knight has long been one of the greatest. Very few singers over the last 50 years have matched her unassailable artistry. This seven-time Grammy winner has enjoyed number-one hits in pop, gospel, R&B and adult contemporary and has triumphed in film, TV and live performances.

In her first effort since 2013’s Another Journey, Knight’s eighth solo effort, this summer marked the release of Where My Heart Belongs, a new inspiration gospel album. Knight is a two-time Grammy winner in the gospel category, and Where My Heart Belongs, which dropped on September 9 from Deseret Book, recently won an NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Gospel Album.

Another Journey enjoyed success from the hit “I Who Have Nothing” as well as the up-tempo track “Settle,” produced by Randy Jackson, with whom she previously collaborated with on her Grammy-winning album At Last. Knight also enjoyed the success of her song “You and I Ain’t Nothin’ No More,” which appeared over the end credits of the critically acclaimed Lee Daniels film The Butler.

Knight recently returned to the small screen in the Lifetime original movie Seasons of Love. In the new year, she will guest on Lee Daniels and Fox’s new series Empire, opposite Terrence Howard and Taraji P. Henson.

She also joined the cast of ABC’s hit reality competition, Dancing with the Stars, for season 14.

The year of 2011 was a year of much recognition, as Knight was both honoring and being honored, first at a Michael Jackson tribute concert, and then at the 2011 Soul Train Awards. At the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, Wales, Knight joined such performers as Jennifer Hudson, Beyoncé and Smokey Robinson in a tribute to the legendary King of Pop in a concert event called Michael Forever. Following that, Knight was honored with a Legend Award alongside fellow recipients Earth, Wind & Fire on the BET broadcast of the third annual Soul Train Awards.

Knight, known as the “Empress of Soul,” a longtime Las Vegas resident, returned to the strip in the late-2000s to the famed Tropicana Hotel for a special engagement that ran in the newly named Gladys Knight Theater, making her the first African-American performer to have a venue named after her in Las Vegas. This followed a successful four-year-show run at the Flamingo, which the Las Vegas Review-Journal praised as “the number-one show on the Strip.”
A tireless humanitarian, Knight is an iconic supporter of the Boys & Girls Club of America, to which she donated a Randy Jackson-produced song, “The Dream.”

In February 2011, Knight reunited with Elton John, Dionne Warwick and Stevie Wonder for the first time in 25 years to perform their Grammy-winning song, “That’s What Friends Are For,” at an AIDS research benefit at the downtown Cipriani in New York.

Knight fans enjoyed *Before Me*—Knight’s last big commercial effort—which paid homage to the great legends of song, Ella, Duke, Billie, Lena, as well as the many artists who served as Knight’s friends, mentors, colleagues and inspiration throughout her career. Knight’s second collaboration with the Saints Unified Voices gospel choir, *A Christmas Celebration*, was an album of holiday classics. Coming off of a Best Gospel/Choir Album Grammy win with their debut album, *One Voice*, Knight again directed the 100-member multicultural choir she formed, injecting their unique flavor and definitive soul into Christmas classics.

Adding to her already impressive collection, Knight won another Grammy for her duet with the late Ray Charles on his posthumous album *Genius Loves Company* (2005). The duo won for Best Gospel Performance for their duet “Heaven Help Us All.” Knight’s solo album *At Last* also won a Grammy for Best Traditional R&B Vocal Album in 2002 and featured a duet with Jamie Foxx, “I Wanna Be Loved.”

Georgia-born, Knight began performing gospel music at age four in the Mount Mariah Baptist Church and sang as a guest soloist with the Morris Brown College Choir. Three years later, she won the grand prize on TV’s *Ted Mack’s Amateur Hour*, and the following year, her mother Elizabeth Knight created the group consisting of Knight, her brother Bubba, her sister Brenda and her cousins William and Elenor Guest. They called themselves the Pips in honor of their cousin/manager, James Pip Woods. In 1959, Brenda and Elenor left the group, replaced by cousin Edward Patten and friend Langston George. The group was renamed Gladys Knight & the Pips, and following George’s departure in 1962, the classic lineup was in place.

The group debuted their first album in 1960, when Knight was just 16. With Knight singing lead and the Pips providing lush harmonies and graceful choreography, the group went on to achieve icon status, recording some of the most memorable songs of the 1960s, ’70s and ’80s. Top-20 hits, like “Every Beat of My Heart,” “Letter Full of Tears,” “I Heard it Through the Grapevine” and “If I Were Your Woman,” set the stage for an amazing run
in the mid-1970s, with top-10, gold-certified singles like “Neither One of Us (Wants to be the First to Say Goodbye),” “I’ve Got to Use My Imagination,” “Best Thing to Ever Happen to Me” and the number-one smash “Midnight Train to Georgia” established Gladys Knight & the Pips as the premiere pop/R&B vocal ensemble in the world. The party kept rolling with hits like “On and On” from the Academy Award-nominated soundtrack of Curtis Mayfield’s *Claudine*, the 1974 comedy about love in the inner city. Knight enjoyed another number-one hit in 1985 when she teamed with Stevie Wonder, Elton John and Dionne Warwick on “That’s What Friends are For.”

All told, Knight has recorded more than 38 albums over the years, including four solo albums during the past decade.

In 1995, Knight earned her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and the next year, Gladys Knight & the Pips were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Knight published an autobiography, *Between Each Line of Pain and Glory*, in 1997. The following year, she and the Pips were presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Rhythm and Blues Music Hall of Fame.

Today, Knight and husband, William, along with various other members of the family, oversee her busy career from the Las Vegas headquarters of Shakeji, Inc., her personal entertainment corporation. She is a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, performer, restaurateur and businesswoman, with a spiritual outlook on her life. Her faith in God has been the driving force behind all of Knight’s endeavors, guiding her through her many successes.