



Gail A. Backus

December 10, 1935 - September 4, 2019

Gail was born in Detroit, Michigan to her late parents Ralph and Ernestine Tischler December 10th, 1935. Gail was raised her whole life in Utica, Michigan, graduating and proud alumna from Utica High School. Gail was a lifetime parishioner of St. Lawrence Catholic Church, Utica, from Baptism until her death September 4th, 2019 in Detroit, Michigan.

While at St. Lawrence Church is where Gail met the love of her life, Pete, with whom she has celebrated 60 years of marriage.

Gail is the loving mother of Terri A. (Michael) Kelm, Peter P. (Bridget) Backus and Sharon M. (Timothy) Boettcher. Dearest grandmother of Jordan Watson, Cameron and Claire Backus. Her surviving sister Donna (late husband Joseph) Miller.

Gail devoted her life to God and to the Catholic Church. While at St. Lawrence Church, she was a member of Christian service and enjoyed volunteering for many parish events. Gail's greatest gift was her devotion to her family, always placing her loving husband, children and grandchildren first, always wanting to make sure everyone was taken care of and showered with her love. She was very proud of her three grandchildren and all their accomplishments, she loved watching her grandson's sporting events, her granddaughters dance recitals and listening to them play the violin. Because of her love of flowers she became a floral designer and created arrangements as well as enjoyed gardening her whole life.

Gail enjoyed traveling with her family and visiting friends and family all over

the country. She loved to entertain, throw a party or dinner and made sure everyone had plenty to eat and had a good time, a good drink and a toast to the moment. She loved to dance and “cut a rug” with her husband Pete. She loved to bake and always made every dinner, birthday and holiday celebration special. She loved the holidays and decorating her home for the seasons. Gail loved to shop, one of her favorite hobbies!

She always found the perfect gift for everyone and the perfect dress for herself. She loved the fall season and traveling through Michigan seeing the beautiful colors. She loved golf and the hack & whack family golf outings, and loved watching the Masters golf tournament every spring and celebrating the Red Wings Stanley Cup championships with family. Her favorite times were with family and friends sitting around the bonfire up at the family lodge, evening cruises on the pontoon boat, laughing, telling stories and whooping it up!

Family will receive friends for visitation Monday, September 9th from 1:00 pm until 9:00 pm with a prayer service at 6:00 pm at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Road, 3 Blocks East of VanDyke on the north side of M-59), Utica, Michigan. Tuesday, September 10th, 2019. Gail will lie in state at 9:30 am until the time of her Funeral Mass at 10:00 am at St. Lawrence Catholic Church, 44633 Utica Road (south of Hall Road), Utica, Michigan. Following her Funeral Mass, everyone is invited to her Funeral Luncheon at the St. Lawrence Social Hall (next to church). Burial will take place at 1:00 p.m. at Christian Memorial Cemetery, Rochester Hills, Michigan. Memorials contributions appreciated to The Capuchins, 1820 Mt. Elliott Street, Detroit, MI 48207. Please share a memory with her family at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com

Cemetery Details

Christian Memorial Cemetery

521 E. Hamlin Road
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 9. 1:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Prayer Service

SEP 9. 6:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Visitation

SEP **10**. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Lawrence Catholic Church
44633 Utica Road
Utica, MI 48317

Funeral Mass

SEP **10**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Lawrence Catholic Church
44633 Utica Road
Utica, MI 48317

Tribute Wall



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Gail A. Backus.*



September 14, 2019 at 05:19 PM



“ *To the Backus Family from Janice Sutton and Mary Lee Warner. Our deepest condolences and sympathy goes out to all you. Gail, Janice and Mary Lee have known each other for nearly 70 years. We were very close, best friends and shared so many beautiful memories. We always felt that we had 2 other homes and spent many hours at Gail's home. Gail's mom was always very good to us. There are no words adequate enough to express our sorrow at the loss of a very dear friend with whom we have continued to stay in touch over the years. Our hearts are hurting for all of you. God speed Gail.*



Mary Warner - September 09, 2019 at 03:46 PM



“ *Tischler Family - Laurie, Janie, Julie, Holly, Jim purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Gail A. Backus.*



Tischler Family - Laurie, Janie, Julie, Holly, Jim - September 08, 2019 at 06:33 PM

KC

“ *Knights of Columbus-Newberg Council purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gail A. Backus.*



Knights of Columbus-Newberg Council - September 08, 2019
at 12:22 PM

SV

“ *Our Aunt Gail and Uncle Pete were a Tribute to Family First. Her Joyful Smile could fill a room with Glee! They were always dressed to the 9's! Their Beautiful Life and Marriage we're teaching Everyone about the Perfect Marriage! We'll Miss Her Tremendously! We Love You Aunt Gail Rest In Peace On Your New Journey till we Meet Again!*

Sylvia Villarreal-Foyt - September 08, 2019 at 11:54 AM

DF

“ *Delphine Krause and Family purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Gail A. Backus.*



Delphine Krause and Family - September 07, 2019 at 08:21
PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gail A. Backus.*



September 06, 2019 at 01:43 PM

CC

“ *Mrs. Backus was the warmest and sweetest women. A reminder of my own mother. Saw her at Lenten events this last year and she was always so happy to see friends and family. I will personally miss her and know the loss is unbearable for the family. May Gods peace be with you all.*

Christopher and Catherine - September 06, 2019 at 10:25 AM

JF

It was a privilege to have known Gail over the years. I first met her about 20 years ago,working with her in many capacities of Christian Service. She was always willing to help out in whatever way and was loved by all of the volunteers at St. Lawrence. A beautiful,gracious lady,who will always be kept in my heart. Jim and I send our sincerest condolences to her family.

Jim and Cindy Flynn - September 06, 2019 at 09:15 PM