



## Gayla Suzanne Peterson

March 26, 1959 - January 13, 2018

Our beloved Gayla Mertz Peterson passed away on January 13, 2018 in Springfield MO.

Gayla was born on March 26, 1959 in Danville, Illinois to Leonard Mertz and Elsie Cox Mertz. She was the youngest of three sisters.

Gayla married Michael Hopper and to this union a son, Michael Victor Hopper was born.

She later married Rick Peterson in the chapel at Silver Dollar City, MO. She and Rick enjoyed living in Montana for three years before returning to Missouri and making their home in Louisburg. Rick is the preacher at Lindley Christian Church. Rick and Gayla welcomed David Sullivan into their hearts and home and consider him to be a son.

Gayla was an LPN nurse for many years. She loved nursing and also loved her role as a preacher's wife. The wonderful people at church enriched her life immeasurably as she did theirs.

She had a wonderful sense of humor and captured many hilariously funny moments in her stories which were greatly anticipated by her family and friends.

Gayla had many talents and enjoyed a large number of hobbies including writing. She authored a book, "Dawg Tired, The Brain Fog Chronicles," about her illness. It gave hope & humor to those with chronic hidden illnesses. Over the years she has granted permission for it to be translated into four additional languages.

Gayla is survived by her husband, Rick of the home, sons Victor Hopper (Ashley), Ozark, MO, and David Sullivan, Springfield, MO, three very loved grandchildren, Alexis Hopper, Lily Hopper, and Logan Sullivan, her father and stepmother, Leonard and Charmaine Mertz, Midway, AR, and sisters, Linda Mertz Nolan (John Duffy), Gilbert, AZ, and Carolyn Mertz Moody, Bull Shoals, AR. She also leaves several nieces and nephews and a large extended family.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Elsie Lansdown.

Services for Gayla will be held privately by the family at a later date.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Gayla Suzanne Peterson*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM

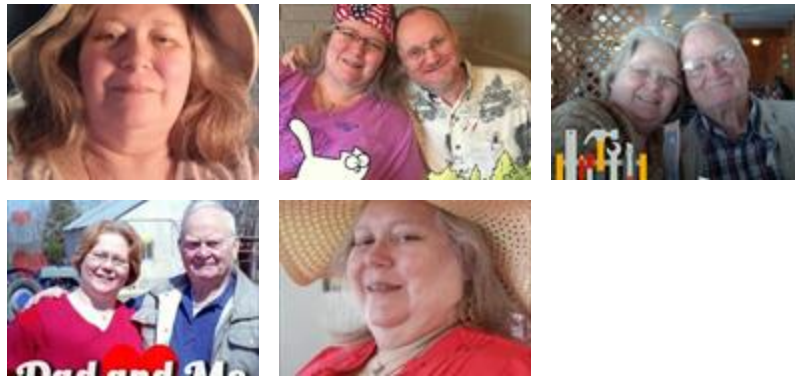


“ *Gayla Suzanne Peterson*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *26 files added to the album Gayla Peterson*



**Rick Peterson** - January 16, 2018 at 03:37 PM



“ *Both my mom and one of my best friends. She was and still is one of the smartest and most well rounded people I have ever had the chance to meet. Words cannot describe the pain I'm going through since losing her. I will cherish the memories with her forever. I just wish we could have had one more day to talk and laugh.*



**Victor Hopper** - January 15, 2018 at 08:28 AM



*Victor, my sister Gayla loved you so much and was so proud of you.  
Love, Aunt Linda Nolan.*

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**Linda Nolan** - January 17, 2018 at 02:40 PM



*Gayla's celebration of life service will be Sunday, February 4, 2018  
after a noon meal @ the Lindley Christian Church, Buffalo, MO.*

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**Rick Peterson** - January 25, 2018 at 02:04 PM