



## Gayle Stanek

November 22, 1951 - March 13, 2017

Gayle J. Stanek, age 65, of Aldrich, Missouri, passed away Monday, March 13, 2017, at Mercy Hospital in Springfield, Missouri.

Gayle was born on November 22, 1951, in Nappanee, Indiana. She was the youngest of five children born to Melvin and Waneta (Losee) Spicher. Gayle grew up in that area, which had a large Amish presence, so many of her childhood friends were Amish. After moving to Missouri, in 1968, she continued to visit the Local Amish and Mennonite communities.

In the summer of 1969 she met Charles Stanek, who had just returned home from the Army. They fell in love and were married on November 14, 1970. Together they had one daughter, Chantell. The family stayed in the area, and have lived on their farm for the past 42 years.

Gayle attended college at Drury University, obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Education. She was certified to teach in basic and special education, and started her teaching career in Humansville, but moved to Pleasant Hope Schools in 1991. There she taught third grade for seven years before she began teaching, and running, the Horizons gifted program, where she became very involved with her students. She took many students to Space Camp in Alabama, sponsored the Academic Bowl every year for the Polk County League, served as an officer for several years with the State Gifted

Association, was a member of the State Gifted Board, and planned, and participated in, the State Gifted Contest every year. After 26 years of teaching, Gayle retired in 2014.

She was an avid New York Yankees fan, and also found joy in collecting things, especially anything she thought pretty. On Sundays, you would find Gayle talking on the phone to Chantell while she watched QVC.

Gayle is preceded in death by her parents, Melvin and Waneta; a sister, Karen Weaver; and a brother, Gary Spicher.

Gayle is survived by her husband, Charles, of the home; daughter, Chantell Stanek, of Las Vegas, Nevada; brothers, Jim Spicher, and his wife Beverly, of Florida, and Merle Spicher, and his wife Evelyn, of Halfway, Missouri; as well as many nieces, nephews, and other family members.

A visitation will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., on Friday, March 17, 2017 at the Butler Funeral Home in Bolivar.

A funeral mass will be at 10:00 a.m., on Saturday, March 18, 2017, at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, in Bolivar, with burial to follow at the St. Wenceslaus Cemetery.

Donations may be made to the Gayle Stanek Memorial for Jackie Ross ALS Fund at any Central Bank of the Ozarks branch.

# Cemetery Details

**St. Wencenslaus**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

**MAR 17.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Bolivar  
407 E. Broadway  
Bolivar, MO 65613  
(417) 326-5233  
<https://butlerfuneralhome.com/>

### Funeral Service

**MAR 18.** 10:00 AM (CT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
1405 W Fair Play St  
Bolivar, MO 65613

# Tribute Wall



“ *Gayle Stanek*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *Gayle Stanek*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *I am so lucky to have met Gayle. She was a bright light in the world and a bright light cannot be put out. Her memory will live on in the lives of those she touched. The students that she taught will never forget her. The people she blessed will always carry her in their hearts.*

*Kimberly Flick*

Kimberly Flick - March 17, 2017 at 06:30 PM



“ *What a wonderful teacher/friend! I will miss you, Gayle!*

Lynn-Kristy Flick - March 17, 2017 at 05:50 PM



“ *It was my delight and honor to know Gayle. She was a positive influence in the lives of many children that she had in class. My thoughts and prayers are with her family.*

Carol Huser - March 17, 2017 at 04:23 PM

JA

“ Charles, I was so very sorry to hear that Gayle had passed away. She influenced so many young lives through her teaching. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Jerald Andrews

Jerald Andrews - March 17, 2017 at 04:13 PM



“ OH my gosh, I am so sorry to learn of your loss. Gayle was a wonderful person. She will be dearly missed by all she touched in her life.

Jo Woolsey - March 17, 2017 at 02:27 PM

GB

“ Gary & Sharon Birdsall purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Gayle Stanek.



Gary & Sharon Birdsall - March 17, 2017 at 01:49 PM

JZ

“ John and Andrea Zawodny purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gayle Stanek.



John and Andrea Zawodny - March 17, 2017 at 01:16 PM



“ *Linda Brannon lit a candle in memory of Gayle Stanek*



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**Linda Brannon** - March 16, 2017 at 09:05 PM

EP

“ *EVELYN PAINTER lit a candle in memory of Gayle Stanek*



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**EVELYN PAINTER** - March 16, 2017 at 07:58 PM

EP

“ *GOD BLESS YOU CHARLIE..... SHE WAS A SWEET LADY AND DID SO MUCH FOR PLEASANT HOPE SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS...WE WILL MISS HER GREATLY...*

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**EVELYN PAINTER** - March 16, 2017 at 07:57 PM

VF

“ *Van & Amy Bake and Chuck & Laurel Floyd families purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gayle Stanek.*



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**Van & Amy Bake and Chuck & Laurel Floyd families** - March 16, 2017 at 01:23 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Gayle Stanek.*



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March 16, 2017 at 01:13 PM



“ *Gayle,  
Of all the people that I have met through Pleasant Hope Schools, you were my favorite. You taught my children, Melanie and Jeff, not just educational things, and your artistic abilities were endless and beautiful, but you taught them citizenship, manners, to be polite always and about real life. They adored you, my Dad adored you, and I learned so much from you when I substituted at the school. I have never seen you angry or without your smile. I am so shocked and saddened by your passing. Please tell Dad and Glen hello, and you keep them boys out of trouble. (Haha). My condolences to Charles and Chantelle, I feel like I have known you forever because of Gayle. Thank you for sharing her with us, because we sure did love and admire her. You are in our thoughts and prayers, and may God grant you peace and comfort during this horrible time.*



*Tammy Johnston (Strong)*

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**Tammy Sue Johnston** - March 16, 2017 at 12:45 PM



“ *Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Gayle Stanek.* ”



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March 16, 2017 at 10:34 AM



“ *Charles and family, may God's love be with your family every moment. Bill and Karen Gravely* ”

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**Bill and Karen Gravely** - March 16, 2017 at 10:31 AM



“ *Though I only met Gayle at our most recent family reunion, she left a lasting impression on me. She was so genuine, warm and welcoming. I truly appreciate her artistic talent and her support and encouragement for me as a homeschool mom. Rest In Peace, sweet cousin. ❤️* ”

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**Beth (Stanek) Dicks** - March 16, 2017 at 09:38 AM



“ *Jeanne Weatherman lit a candle in memory of Gayle Stanek* ”



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**Jeanne Weatherman** - March 15, 2017 at 09:58 PM

JW

“ I first met Gayle when she substituted at PHES where I was an aide in Title I. She was always so funny and entertained the students by drawing cartoons on the chalk board after they completed their assignments. Gayle was such a strong role model for her students. My granddaughter was one of her Horizon students. She always pushed her students to strive to be the best in their studies and in life. Gayle was a great friend. She will be missed. Jeanne Weatherman

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**Jeanne Weatherman** - March 15, 2017 at 09:57 PM

Doc  
Jens

“ Doc Jens purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Gayle Stanek.



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**Doc Jens** - March 15, 2017 at 12:34 PM

HF

“ We enjoyed spending time with each other's families. I remember Gayle was the first girl to join FFA at Halfway. She was a kind and caring person who loved life and had a great laugh and smile. She will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family. Gordon & Helen (Short) Forrest

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**Helen Forrest** - March 15, 2017 at 10:49 AM