



F. Gayle Lanternier

January 24, 1941 - March 19, 2026

F. Gayle Lanternier, 85, of Bluffton, passed away Thursday morning, March 19, 2026, at Stillwater Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Gayle was born on January 24, 1941, in Decatur, IN to Glenn Vernon and Ruhamah (Smith) Custer. She graduated from Decatur High School in 1959, and furthered her education at Mennonite School of Nursing, graduating in 1962. She worked as a Registered Nurse in Surgical Nursing for 44 years at Caylor-Nickel Clinic Hospital, retiring in 2006. Gayle was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Bluffton, Tri Kappa and assisted with Mom's Morning Out for many years. She assisted with Wells County Alternative School for over eight years.

On October 27, 1963, Gayle and Raymond Lanternier were married at Trinity Evangelical United Brethren Church in Decatur by Rev. Fuhrman Miller and Rev. Rex Custer. They shared 61 years of marriage together before his passing on January 11, 2025.

She is survived by her daughter, Janell S. (Philip) Davis of Eugene, Oregon. Gayle is preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Raymond Lanternier and her son John J. Lanternier on October 14, 2010 and a brother, Thane D. Custer.

A Celebrate of Life Gathering will be held from 1 P.M. to 3 P.M. on Saturday, (April 18, 2026) at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. A Tri Kappa Memorial Service will be held at the conclusion of gathering, at 3 P.M. on Saturday, at the funeral home. Private family burial will take place on this

date at Elm Grove Cemetery in Bluffton, with Jeff Lemler officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital and directed through the funeral home.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends may share online condolences with the family at www.thomarich.com.

Cemetery Details

Elm Grove Cemetery

3500 East State Road 124
Bluffton, IN

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Gathering

APR 18. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
(260) 824-3850
info@thomarich.com

Tri Kappa Memorial Service

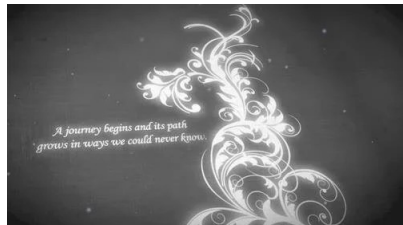
APR 18. 3:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



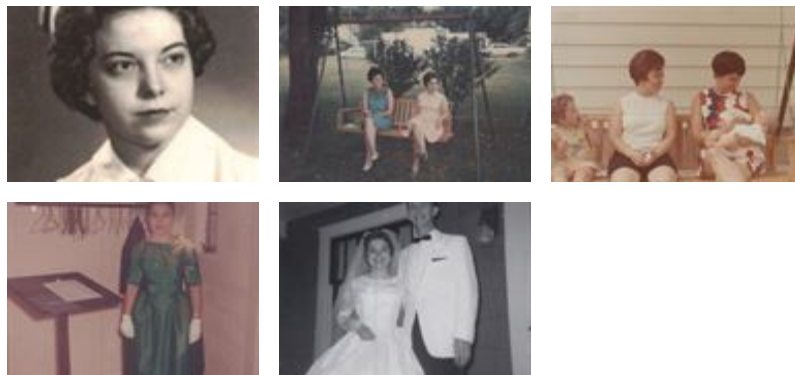
“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of F. Gayle Lanternier*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - April 18 at 01:12 PM



“ *41 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - April 17 at 03:55 PM



“ *Linda J. purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of F. Gayle Lanternier.*



Linda J. - April 07 at 08:29 AM

LJ

“ Linda J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of F. Gayle Lanternier.

Linda J. - April 07 at 08:29 AM

LF

“ Our sympathy to Janell. Gayle was a dear friend for many years. We are so sorry we can't attend her celebration of life.
Jim and Linda Fritz

Linda Fritz - March 31 at 10:51 AM



“ The last time I saw Gayle was when she hosted a lunch at her house after John's funeral. She was so happy to see all of his friends and was very welcoming to all of us. What a beautiful soul. She will be missed!

Erica Pierce - March 27 at 11:09 PM

PF

“ We were saddened to hear of Gayle's passing. Ray and Gayle were wonderful neighbors to us, (the Kaehr family), in Sutton Circle, for many years. I remember mom saying that the day they moved out to downsize, Gayle could not come over to say goodbye, too hard, she sent flowers instead! I babysat Janelle, Jenni babysat John, we were more than just neighbors. They were at all our graduations, showers, weddings, and newborn visits. It is comforting to know she is with Ray and John again. Our prayers to Janelle.

Peg Fiechter - March 27 at 03:41 PM

SE

“ I don't recall exactly where we met. Possibly at Tri Kappa but it was a friendship that continued. We have a granddaughter with a rare syndrome and Gayle never missed a chance to compliment her and ask about her. What a dear, SPECIAL lady. Missed by all. Sharon Espich

Sharon Espich - March 25 at 10:31 AM

AW

“ I struck up a conversation with Gayle at her garage sale several years ago. I remembered her from when Janell and I were young. We visited and she showed me pictures of Janell with raptors — so proud! I ended up leaving with a start of beautiful buttercups from her garden that still bloom every year. May you cherish the blessings that Gayle brought to your family!



Abi West - March 24 at 06:30 AM

LT

“ Our families meshed in 1952 when we became next door neighbors. Our parents became best friends and we kids all grew up together...so many occasions: birthdays, confirmations, graduations, weddings, anniversaries, funerals...the Custers/Lanterniers and the Gernands/Tussings were a family! You're in our hearts forever...Mike and Linda, Joe, Fred, Norma, Laura, John Michael and Timea

LINDA J TUSSING - March 23 at 11:46 PM

MG

“ I appreciated being a next door neighbor to Ray and Gayle for 13 years. They “watched “ over me for that time!!! Then when Ray passed, I returned the favor-Gayle and I shared many memories as we drove around Bluffton. I am so glad she is at peace now. Prayers and sympathy

Mary K. Gerber - March 23 at 04:04 PM

JG

I knew Gayle by working at Caylor-Nickel Hospital and my son, Brian, was good friends with her son John. May Gayle be reunited with Ray & John and no longer in pain. Rest in peace Gayle.

jane Gehron - March 23 at 05:15 PM

GH

“ May God Bless you with many beautiful memories to bring you peace and comfort. Always enjoyed visiting with Gayle or simply saying Hi as our paths crossed at Lancaster School, Country Squire or around Bluffton in general! Very special lady!!
Glennis Henly

Glennis Henly - March 21 at 03:44 PM

JA

Truly a great lady served with her in the board of trustees at the church for several years. She loved her church and it's members. Gayle and Ray left a big hole in the Church. God Bless you and your family.

Joe ayers - March 23 at 11:00 AM

RI

“ Gayle was a nice neighbor who taught me to bake cookies and let me earn some allowance with occasional babysitting. It was a pleasure to reconnect with her & Janell in the last year.

Rachel Isch - March 21 at 09:07 AM

MC

“ So sorry for your loss, Gale was a very caring and friend, I would see her when she was at work at BRMC cause I worked there too in the pharmacy she was a beautiful lady and will be missed. Sam and Marsha Crickard

Marsha Crickard - March 20 at 06:46 PM

DG

“ We are so saddened to learn of Gayle's passing. We always enjoyed talking with Gayle and the visits we had over the past years. Gayle really enjoyed Lily when she was able to come with us. We know she is in a better place and there is no more suffering. I'm sure she has a lot of stories to tell Ray and John. The Lanternier family will be in our prayers. Dan and Darlene Gerdom



Dan Gerdom - March 20 at 01:17 PM

GN

I worked with Gayle for quite a few years and she was such a great co-worker and friend!! Please know how much I care.

Gretta Nusbaumer - March 26 at 04:56 PM

BD

This tribute is in honor of both Gayle and Ray Lanternier in their life of service to their community and their love for Janell and their love and kindness shown to our son, Philip Davis. We had some fun times with them and always enjoyed our phone calls. Gayle always had a smile on her face and a chuckle when I called. We are so fortunate to be able to say Janell is a part of this Davis family. Janell and Philip are always in our hearts and prayers. Betty Davis and Family

Betty Davis - April 10 at 04:32 PM