



Gayle Duncan Gilmer

July 6, 1943 - March 18, 2026

Gayle Duncan Gilmer, age 82, of Franklin, Tennessee, passed away on March 18, 2026, at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee, surrounded by loving family members.

Born Martha Gayle Duncan on July 6, 1943, in Lobelville, Tennessee, she was the daughter of the late Homer and Mabel (Long) Duncan. In 1961, Gayle graduated valedictorian at Lobelville High School. On April 3, 1964, Gayle married J. Wayne Gilmer, and they celebrated 52 years of marriage. In addition to her parents and husband, Gayle was preceded in death by her brother, Van Duncan, and grandparents, William T. and Mary Lora (Brown) Duncan, and Henry Hugh and Hattie (Coble) Long, Jr.

Gayle is survived by her son Scott (Amber) Gilmer; daughter Shelby (Michael) Elswick, M.D.; grandchildren Adaline Gilmer, Hope (Connor) Manuel, Hunter (Emily) Olds, Sydney Olds, Skylar Olds, Lawson Olds, Brady Elswick, Brooks Elswick, Noah Elswick, and Amber (Travis) Dales; great-grandchildren Sage Manuel and Bentley Dales, and numerous other family members.

A lifelong learner, Gayle emphasized the importance of education to her family and others. After her children were grown, she returned to her studies, earning bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin, and furthered her graduate education at Vanderbilt University. She

channeled this passion into a meaningful career as a special education teacher at Perry County High School.

An active member of the church of Christ, Gayle also served her community by volunteering on the hospital and library boards and knitting for others.

A graveside service before burial will be held Monday, March 23, 2026, at 12 Noon at the Gilmer Cemetery, Lobelville, with Bro. Bill McDonald officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to the Lobelville Public Library (55 S. Main St., Lobelville, TN 37097), the Gilmer Cemetery fund (% Bank of Perry County, 33 S. Main St., Lobelville, TN 37097), or the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center.

The family extends a special thank you to Sanjay Mohan, M.D., and the staff of the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center and Vanderbilt University Medical Center for their excellent care. In addition, the family greatly appreciates the companionship of friends and neighbors she enjoyed at Everleigh.

Cemetery Details

Gilmer Cemetery

240 Lost Creek Road
Lobelville, TN 37097

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAR 23. 12:00 PM (cst)

Gilmer Cemetery
240 Lost Creek Road
Lobelville, TN 37097

Tribute Wall

RG

“ Ronald Gammons lit a candle in memory of Gayle Gilmer



Ronald Gammons - March 22 at 03:06 PM

RM

“ Gayle and I were neighbors at everleigh. She was a special and sweet lady. I will miss her. Rest in peace. Prayers for the family.
Rose Mitchell

Rose Mitchell - March 21 at 10:47 AM

MB

“ Michael Bates sent a virtual gift in memory of Gayle Gilmer



Michael Bates - March 21 at 08:42 AM

BG

“ Prayers for the family. Loved Ms. Gayle and will miss her.

Blake Garrison - March 21 at 03:39 AM

MM

“ I live at Everleigh and will miss her. She was a very nice lady.
Marlene

Marlene Manning - March 20 at 07:09 PM

AK

“ *Amber Batts Kelley lit a candle in memory of Gayle Gilmer*



Amber Batts Kelley - March 20 at 06:34 PM

SS

“ *Gayle was a member of the Bucket List Book Club at Everleigh, and I met her there. She was always an active contributor to our book discussions, peppered with a bit of humor. I also knew her as the generous person who collected clothing at the Everleigh for a women's shelter. I appreciate the time spent with Gayle -- she was special. Sherry Scott*

Sherry B Scott - March 20 at 04:23 PM

BL

“ *Gayle was a special lady! I enjoyed being around her when I lived in Lobelville! She and I took a train ride(a short one). We had a good time! Prayer to her family!
Prayers!
Barbara (DePriest) Lee*

Barbaral lee - March 20 at 10:44 AM