



Gail Q. Harris

January 23, 1948 - March 29, 2020

Albany - Gail Q. Harris, 72, entered eternal rest on Sunday, March 29, 2020 while surrounded by love and support from family and friends near and far.

Her zeal for life, laughter, and friendship will be greatly missed. She was born and raised in North Albany on Van Rensselaer Blvd where her passion for those less fortunate blossomed. She was the oldest girl in a family of five children and learned early on that caring for others was her passion. She attended the Academy of the Holy Names and Damien College creating friendships that lasted a lifetime.

Over the span of 30 years, Gail was a dedicated, demanding, and compassionate 1st and 2nd grade teacher in Albany City Schools (P.S. #6, Arbor Hill, T.O.A.S.T., P.S. #27, and North Albany). Undoubtedly, Gail inspired thousands of kids to do better and dream bigger than ever before because she believed in all of them! Gail was a beacon of hope and pillar of strength for all who were lucky enough to know her. Her affinity for Polo, Talbots, and Pottery Barn was well known.

She was a devoted and loving mother to Jill, Robby, and Katie - always

expecting their best and encouraging them to chart their own paths forward. She adored her six grandchildren, relishing the moments she had with them. During her final three years, Gail defied the odds by living courageously with Glioblastoma (GBM) brain cancer. Through her journey she taught us to never give up, focus on the positive, and appreciate the time we do have.

She appreciated all the family, friends, and medical personnel that continually believed in her and made her final years some of her best.

She is predeceased by her parents Marion (Kinley) and John J. Quackenbush. She is survived by her siblings Frank (Kathy), Jay (Judy), Billy (Ellen) Quackenbush and Jill (Terry) Ryan and many nieces and nephews, all of whom she adored. Her children Jill EQ (Mark) Lemire, Rob (Michelle) Harris, Katie (Steve) McCutcheon and grandchildren Connor (11), Meghan (8), Eloise (8), Jackson (6), Teagan (5), and Madyson (4) will carry on together as she would want us to.

A celebration of her life will be planned for a future date.

In light of these unprecedented times and Gail's compassion toward others, please consider making a memorial contribution to an organization of your choosing.

To leave a condolence message for Gail's family, please visit mcveighfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall

NE

“ I am a former student of Ms. Harris. She was my teacher at PS. 27 for my 2nd and 3rd grade year and now at the age of 30 I found myself thinking about her and wondering how she's doing. I remember her being so supportive and helpful to me and my younger brother, driving us home from school while my parents were at work so we didn't have to walk or even staying late with us if my mom was running late to pick us up. Those memories of her always have stuck with me. My condolences to her family❤️

Nedayah - September 14, 2024 at 01:57 PM



“ Gail Q. Harris

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM

SB

“ Katie, Jill, Robby & Families,

My heartfelt condolences to all of you. I heard your mom was sick and the amazing care you all provided her. A testament of the amazing children Gail raised. I have so many wonderful memories on Brevator St. She always knew, when someone needed help and was there to pick up the pieces. She kept everyone in line when "we" needed it. Gail is my role model and a true leader to many. The most giving person who inspired me to push my own limits. She filled our hearts with many happy feelings which we will hold deep in our hearts forever. Keeping you all in my prayers and good thoughts. With mch love, today and always, Sue Bradley & the entire Bradley Family... Bill, Billy, Lauryn, Bobby, Jessica, Brian, Shannon, Parker & Sloane...

Sue Bradley - July 24, 2020 at 08:13 AM

LB

“ Dear Katie and family,
My sincere sympathy goes out to you all. I always enjoyed talking to your mom at different events at school. She was so fun loving and kind. Keeping you in my thoughts and prayers.
Leslie Bogucki

Leslie Bogucki - June 11, 2020 at 07:39 PM

MV

“ Dear Robby, Jill and Katie and to all the Quackenbush Family,

Such great memories we all have. I can still hear her laugh! She accomplished so much and touched so many lives - especially forming young minds that are now part of our community. You all took such good care of her when she got so ill - a true blessing to have you all as family. In Gail's honor Gordon and I are making a donation to the Covid-19 Response Fund. Like Gail's interests, this fund is now touching so many in the community.
Love to you all
Michele Vennard and Gordon Lattey

Michele Vennard - April 13, 2020 at 04:46 PM

DK

“ We were so sorry to hear of Gail's passing. We lived across the street from her for several years and she was such a nice neighbor. She will be missed.

Anna, Doug, Jessica and Aidan Kemp

Doug Kemp - April 11, 2020 at 02:03 PM

SH

“ I was so very sorry to hear of Gail's passing. She was truly a wonderful compassionate person that we should all try to emulate. I shared the loss with Jonathan and Jordan and we reminisced how we created some fun memories at the Marriott swimming and "summer camp" activities and the Polo races! I will surely miss seeing her and her relating all the great times she had going to the grandchildren' homes.

Always, the teacher came naturally to her. Love to you all. May you all be healthy.

Love Suzann Halstuch and family.

Suzann Haltuch - April 10, 2020 at 10:08 AM

JR

“ Jill, Robby, Katie and Gail's entire loving family: You have my sincere condolences, Gail was a strong, wonderful women. My life is better for having known her. In time remember only the good times you shared with her.

Joan Harris Rondeau - April 09, 2020 at 01:39 PM

DB

“ Gail was effervescent, cheerful, compassionate, dedicated, funny, a steadfast colleague at Arbor Hill, and a treasured friend of many years ..My deepest condolences to her family. She made the world a better place. Sincerely, Diane Bartholdi

Diane Bartholdi - April 08, 2020 at 05:36 PM

SV

“ Dear Jill and family: Please accept my heartfelt condolences upon the passing of your beloved mother, Gail. May the love, laughter and shared good times remain within your hearts forever. Sincerely, Sal Villa

Salvatore Villa - April 08, 2020 at 10:48 AM



“ *Jill, Katie and Rob, My deepest sympathies to you and your families. Your mom’s courage was an inspiration to us all. I last saw her at mass at St Kateri with Katie and her family, she had a big smile on her face. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. Joanne Coppola*

Joanne Coppola - April 06, 2020 at 01:46 PM

SF

“ *My deepest sympathy and love to all of Gail's family. Gail was good to everyone and made a special effort to show care and concern for all of us. Her generosity and spirit will always be remembered. May she rest in peace.*

Sheila Sheridan and Family - April 06, 2020 at 11:11 AM

RV

“ *God bless her. She brought happiness wherever she was. I will remember her as a sweet and gentle woman.*

Ron Vero - April 06, 2020 at 06:45 AM

PN

“ *Jill,Rob,and Katie,so very sorry to hear of the loss of your mother. She was a joyful woman! One day we met at the trading port . I complimented her on her dress. she told me she made it herself from dirt cheap fabric from Alfred’s. She enthusiastically said “ go get some fabric and I’ll make you one! She was so genuine that I did. One night after supper I went over to your house and she cut out the pattern and sewed it up and I went home with it completed! I never forgot her generosity. This was in1983. You are in my prayers.*

Peggy Neugebauer - April 05, 2020 at 10:14 PM

MH

“ Jill, Katie, and Rob, I'm so sorry for your loss. I have so many fond memories of Gail over the years. I love often she said your name when she was talking to you (whoever you were)! Gail was such a great lady and I wish she had 20 more years but she leaves much of herself behind in you three and her grand kids.

Molly Williams Hodgins - April 05, 2020 at 04:55 PM

NF

“ Jill and Family, I remember your mom as spunky , classy, loving and hard working for her students in Albany. May your memories of her life well lived give you some comfort. Praying for your sweet Mother and for all of your family.

Nicole Forkeutis - April 05, 2020 at 04:09 PM

BL

“ Jill, Rob and Katie,
So sorry to hear of your mother's passing. She touched so many lives in so many positives ways. She will be truly missed. Beth Laddin

Beth Laddin - April 05, 2020 at 02:59 PM

GV

“ Gail asked me to my first formal dance, "The Tinsel Ball" at Holy Names. Since then we've been great friends. Joan and I will miss your smile and laugh. A very classy lady. Heaven is shining brighter today!!!

Glenn and Joan

Glenn Viele - April 05, 2020 at 12:47 PM

JL

“ *Jill, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your entire family. Your Mom was a special person. Joann Lasch and Family*

Joann Lasch - April 05, 2020 at 12:40 PM

MB

“ *My sincere sympathy on your loss. Gail was an awesome, caring, and compassionate. Her heart was her kids in the classroom.*

Mary Betman

Mary Berman - April 05, 2020 at 11:45 AM

JS

“ *Jill, Rob and Katie, Rich and I want to send our condolences to you and your families. Every time we saw your Mom she made us smile and laugh. She had the best laugh, quick and genuine. One special memory was our "chaperoning" the CBA cross country team in Montreal many years ago. We had a weekend of fun and laughter. Please take care of yourselves. Jan and Rich Sinnott*

Janice Sinnott - April 05, 2020 at 11:41 AM

RL

Jill, Frank, Jay and Billy - I'm sending my sincerest condolences to you and your families. Gail was a really special person, and the most caring and compassionate babysitter I ever met. She always went that extra mile in everything she did.

Rosalie Lux - April 05, 2020 at 02:05 PM

LC

“ *Katie and family-
I am so sorry for your loss. Gail certainly was smart, caring, and so much fun to be around. I feel lucky to have known her these past 10 plus years. I know you all have a lifetime of amazing memories to keep in your heart.
All our love-
The Cummings Family
Laurie, Pat, Maddie and Dylan*

Laurie Cummings - April 05, 2020 at 11:22 AM

CY

“ *My condolences to you all. I worked with Gail at Eagle Point Elementary School for about 5 years. I really appreciated her fierce dedication to the education and lives of the students she taught at Albany City Schools. She was a teacher who taught with style and grade. I really learned a lot from her experiences and i thank you for sharing her power with the staff and students that she worked with throughout the years. May her shining spirit be with you now and always. Cynthia Clo*

Cynthia - April 05, 2020 at 11:12 AM

MA

“ *Dear Katie (and family), I am so sorry to hear about your Mom. She was a lovely person and we developed a great relationship when you were my student. She used to tell me that she hoped you'd become a lawyer, because nobody could argue as well as you. She was so proud of you. She was very funny, kind and sincere. Although I hadn't seen her in many years, she will certainly never be forgotten.
Marna Atkin*

Marna Atkin - April 05, 2020 at 10:49 AM

GF

“ *Jill, Rob and Kate,
I'm so sorry. Your Mom was a great lady. I loved knowing her. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your families.*

*Love,
Ginny Farinacci*

Ginny Farinacci - April 05, 2020 at 10:37 AM

KC

“ *Jill, I am saddened to hear of your Mom's passing. Although we never taught together, our paths crossed frequently over the years. She truly fought the good fight with an amazing attitude. I feel blessed to have known her. My sincere sympathy to you and your entire family. Kathy Carrigan Chant*

Kathleen Chant - April 05, 2020 at 10:21 AM

AK

“ *Gail was always enjoyable to be around, and a wonderful teacher! Gail was such a welcoming presence-in all her endeavors She volunteered in my class one year, upon her retirement, and the children and I thoroughly appreciated her. She brought cheer to all the places she went. She was a thoughtful colleague and a wonderful person. My thoughts are with you Jill, and Family!!! Prayers to you during this difficult time.*

Ann Kennedy-Rigosu - April 04, 2020 at 01:53 AM

MP

“ I’m very sorry to hear about Gail’s passing. I was lucky enough to have Gail as a cooperating teacher during my student teaching experience at P.S.#27. Gail set an example of what a teacher and a parent should be and I still try to follow her lead to this day. Jill, Robby and Katie, you are in my thoughts. Your mom was an amazing person.

Michael Perrott - April 03, 2020 at 08:32 PM

OC

“ Gail was a major blessing in me and my brother Milton’s life. She stepped in to fill a void during some of the darkest times of our lives and for that I will always be grateful. I will always miss her smile, quick wit and ability to lift my spirits with her voice alone. The world has truly lost one of the most beautiful people I have ever known. To Jill, Katie and Robby I am truly sorry for your loss. Thank you for sharing Gail with me all these years.

Oshemah Carrington - April 03, 2020 at 07:47 PM

BA

“ To the Harris Family:

Very few define class, commitment, and courage as well as your mother did. Gail was not only a talented teacher, but also, and most importantly, an outstanding individual. She fought the courageous fight with dignity, which can serve as an inspiration to us all.

*May she rest in peace; God bless.
Bob and Barbara Van Amburgh*

Bob Van Amburgh - April 03, 2020 at 07:18 PM

PB

“ *Lovely, classy lady and friend will be missed dearly. Jill, Robbie and Katie, and their families, were the highlights of Gail's life! The pride she spoke with as she gave updates of their lives was completely evident. Gail had that magical way of making everyone feel much happier or better after spending any amount of time with her. A truly blessed angel! 💙*

PAUL BEARUP - April 03, 2020 at 06:44 PM

RA

“ *Jill, Robbie, and Katie,
I'm sure you know how special your Mom was and how much she will be missed. I know how much I will miss her and all the fun times we had. She was an exceptional mother, friend, sister, aunt, teacher, daughter and yes patient. She will always be my inspiration. Love you all,
Roz Adair*

roslyn adair - April 03, 2020 at 05:37 PM

KT

“ *So so sorry to read about Gail's passing. Her spirit will be with her family forever. Gail set an example to all of us on how to live during difficult times. God Bless the Quackenbush family. Prayers and love to you from us.*

Karen and Bill Tierney

Karen Tierney - April 03, 2020 at 05:34 PM

LB

“ *Jill, Rob and Katie,
I am so sorry to hear of your moms passing. She was always so full of energy and proud of all your accomplishments. I can still remember her from school 16 Field Days.
My thoughts and prayers are with you all.
Leslie Bogucki*

Leslie Boguckiu - April 03, 2020 at 04:56 PM

LD

“ *Jill, Rob, and Katie
What a beautiful tribute to your Mom. I was comforted to know you were able to be with her at the Inn at St Peters . She truly was surrounded by many family and friends in spirit. I admire the guts she had in beating her medical odds. . Our AHN class will miss her laugh and good spirit at future gatherings.
Leslie Dykeman, AHN Class of '66*

leslie dykeman - April 03, 2020 at 04:01 PM

MB

*Gail was an example for all of us on how to live well to the end. I hope her grandchildren will remember her love forever.
Marcia Bassotti AHN '66*

Marcia Bassotti - April 03, 2020 at 04:44 PM

JS

“ *Jill, Robby and Jill:*

So very sorry to hear of your mom's passing. She will be dearly missed by everyone. She fought a tough battle and kept her wonderful positive attitude throughout, which was inspirational to us all. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all!


Donna and Jeff Sullivan

Jeffrey P Sullivan - April 03, 2020 at 03:58 PM

PH

“ *Jill, Rob and Katie, I'm so sorry to hear of your Mom's passing. She was a sweet friend and companion. I have such good memories of car pools and Santa's Workshop and sharing sewing patterns and family parties at Aunt Ha's. I send my love and best wishes to you and all the Quackenbush family. Pat Hickey*

Pat Hickey - April 03, 2020 at 01:28 PM

 Pam
Klarsfeld

“ *Gail was always full of spirit and a good laugh. I'm remembering our senior HS retreat... enough said...and laughing. Sainly Holy Name seniors we were NOT. An angel to look over you now who is probably laughing and sending smiles and love your way.*

Pam Klarsfeld - April 03, 2020 at 12:59 PM

DW

“ To Gail's Beloved family:

I am so deeply sorry to learn of Gail's passing. My memory of Gail is one of the fun that she poured out to all of our friends. Her generous heart was carried on through her children who helped me with an amazing outpouring of gifts for Albany city children who were less fortunate at Christmas.

May God bring You comfort in knowing that Gail is now pain free and united with her parents and her great friend, Breida Spicer.

Sincerely,

Donna Nord Wickert, Class of 1966

Donns Wickert - April 02, 2020 at 11:49 AM

MR

“ *Jill, Rob and Katie , please accept my sincere sympathy on the death of your mom. She was a gifted teacher who was always a cheerleader for her students.*

Marilyn Riley

Marilyn Riley - April 01, 2020 at 08:49 PM