

Gayle Hamilton Gray

Gayle Ann Hamilton was born on October 14, 1958 at 6:08 am at St. Luke Hospital in Fort Thomas, KY. She was the second child born to: Harriett Ann Watters Hamilton and Marvin Odell Hamilton. They lived in Covington, KY at the time of her birth.



Her grandparents were: Florence Bond Watters and Charles William Watters from Covington, KY and Nellie Mains Hamilton and Raymond Hamilton from Newport, KY. She had two siblings: Terry Lynn Hamilton Meadors and Raymond Odell Hamilton.

The family moved to Boone County in 1962. As a child, Gayle loved family vacations and weekend camping trips at the Kentucky State Parks, Sunday dinner at Grandma Watters' house, Christmas Eve with the Hamilton family and playing kick ball in the street with neighborhood friends. Gayle knew at a very early age that she wanted to be a teacher. Most of us were so glad for summer vacation and a break from homework, but Gayle always wanted to play school and she would be the teacher. She loved bright colors – her favorite color was red and her favorite flower was the yellow rose.

Gayle attended Florence Elementary from grade one through grade six, Conner Junior High School for grades seventh through ninth and Conner Senior High School beginning her sophomore year graduating as Vice President of her Class in 1976. Gayle was a cheerleader, Homecoming Queen and Prom Queen. She never met a stranger and had many high school friends. She attended Thomas



More College and Northern Kentucky University in 1976-1977, transferred to Eastern Kentucky University for one semester and then transferred to Northern Kentucky University where she met her husband, Michael Gray. Gayle completed her Bachelors' and Masters' Degrees in Education at NKU.

Gayle and Mike were married at Fort Mitchell Baptist Church, Fort Mitchell, KY in 1979. They were blessed with three sons: Adam Michael Gray, Mark Hamilton Gray and Scott Patrick Gray.

After graduation, Gayle worked as a teacher at Caywood Elementary School in Edgewood, KY from 1982–1987, was a substitute teacher in Boone County during 1988–1989 and then took a full-time position at Conner Middle School in Hebron, KY from 1989–1993 where she taught sixth grade Science. Gayle loved to take her class on field trips. One of her favorites was the overnight trip to the Cincinnati Zoo.

In March, 1992, Gayle was diagnosed with stage four colon cancer – the disease had already spread to her liver. She was told that she had six months to live. Gayle refused to feel sorry for herself. She researched the latest treatments and met with many doctors around the country. She had so much to live for – her three boys and a niece, Emily Ann Meadors. She never let her illness dampen her spirit and through all of the treatments, surgeries and hospital stays, she always looked forward to visits from friends and family.

Gayle was a wonderful mother to her three boys. When she was diagnosed, she was determined to do whatever she could to beat this disease and to spend as much time with the boys as possible. She planned a separate vacation with each of the boys – she took Adam on a snow skiing trip, Mark to the Bahamas and Scott to Disney World. When her health really started to decline, her mother asked her if she was scared. Her response was “not for me, but for my boys”.

In May, 1993 a few days before Memorial Day, the family was told that Gayle would probably not make it through the weekend. Again she fought this terrible disease and needed more time. On June 10, 1993, Gayle slipped into a coma – family and friends met at the hospital to express their love to her. Then the next day, June 11, 1993, just before noon, while Gayle was surrounded by her family, she passed away. She is buried at Highland Cemetery, Fort Mitchell, KY near her mother and her grandparents.

In addition to Adam, Mark, Scott and Emily, Gayle is survived by three nieces – Miranda Gayle Hamilton, Eva Marie Blackaby and Mia Lynn Hamilton and a grandson, Landon Michael Gray,

In 1993, several of her high school classmates started the Gayle Hamilton Gray Scholarship Committee. The committee grants an annual scholarship to a deserving senior at Conner High School. The committee collected names at the Boone County Fair to have the new middle school named in her honor and presented the petition to the Boone County Board of Education in October, 1993. Gayle Hamilton Gray Middle School was opened in August, 1994 and dedicated on September 11, 1994.

Her beautiful smile and wonderful spirit is greatly missed by her entire family and anyone who knew her.



