



Marianne Emilie Gray

July 17, 1938 - October 2, 2025

Marianne Emilie Gray,

87, of Indianapolis, passed away October 2, 2025. She was born in Indianapolis on July 17, 1938, to Elmer Leroy and Cora Mae (Haslet) Gray. Her parents and her former husband, Richard Icard, preceded her in death. She was a 1956 graduate of Lawrence Central High School and a 1978 graduate of the University of Indianapolis. Ms. Gray also attended Indiana State University from 1956 to 1960.

Ms. Gray served as sole parent and provider during most of her daughter's early life. Together mother and daughter lived through good times and difficult times, each helping the other along the way. Their close bond was a lifelong friendship as well as a family relationship.

Most of Ms. Gray's work experience was at Fort Benjamin Harrison where she began her career as a clerk-typist in 1962 and retired as a supervisory management analyst/combat developer in 1993. As a management analyst/combat developer, Ms. Gray conducted research to determine manning standards for wartime units performing the wartime mission. In 1988, she became supervisor of the department which was organized under the Directorate of Combat Developments.

During her almost 30-year federal career, Ms. Gray enjoyed a variety of work experiences. While at Goodfellow AFB Texas, Ms. Gray worked on the Department of Defense Project Cloud Gap, a classified secret test program (reports relating to Project Cloud Gap were declassified in 2014). At the U.S. Army Engineer Center, Fort Belvoir Virginia, Ms. Gray served as an editor of technical publications where she edited the U.S. Army Engineer War Game, several technical manuals, and soldier testing materials.

A member of Sigma Kappa Sorority, which she pledged when she was a student at Indiana State University. Ms. Gray enjoyed playing her mountain dulcimer, embroidering, quilting, knitting, and playing hand bells at church. In later years, she served on both the Corporation Board and the Advisory Board of the Gamma Gamma chapter Sigma Kappa. Her volunteer efforts also included serving on the Board of Directors of Bentley Commons Homeowner Association and on the Board of Directors of American Baptist Churches of Greater Indianapolis.

Ms. Gray is survived by her daughter, Lois Icard Miller (Steve); grandchildren, Stephanie

Anne Feeley (Blake) and Sarah Marie Miller; great-grandson, Barrett Thomas Feeley; great-granddaughter, Wren Jo Feeley; sister, Sally Gray Combs (Mike); three nieces, several great-nieces, and a great-nephew.

Visitation will Thursday, October 9, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service at 12 noon at Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel, 9606 East Washington Street.

Entombment will follow at Washington Park East Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Sigma Kappa National, Gamma Gamma Chapter, 695 Pro-Med Lane, Carmel, IN 46032 and/or Cumberland First Baptist Church, 116 S. Muessing Street, Indianapolis, IN 46229.

Cemetery Details

Washington Park East

10612 E. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46229

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 9. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel
9606 E. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46229
(317) 897-9606
<https://shirleybrothers.com/>

Funeral Service

OCT 9. 12:00 PM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel
9606 E. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46229
(317) 897-9606
<https://shirleybrothers.com/>

Tribute Wall

BM

“ *Barbra M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marianne Emilie Gray.*

Barbra M. - October 09, 2025 at 09:04 AM

ND

“ *Nona Dottery purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Marianne Emilie Gray.*



Nona Dottery - October 07, 2025 at 05:53 AM

AC

“ *All the Combses purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Marianne Emilie Gray.*



All the Combses - October 06, 2025 at 04:07 PM

CS

“ *Carla S. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marianne Emilie Gray.*

Carla S. - October 06, 2025 at 02:37 PM

“ One of my favorite people in this world passed away this week—Marianne Emilie Gray.

Marianne Gray was the mother of one of my dearest friends, Lois Miller. We met as kids at George H. Fisher PS #93, and from the moment I stepped into their apartment at Kingston Square, I felt something different—something special. Marianne reminded me of Mary Tyler Moore: fiercely independent, smart, funny, gracious—and effortlessly cool. She made it feel okay to be exactly who I was, even before I fully understood who that was.

As a tall, sensitive, passionate, redheaded, sports-loving academic kid who never quite fit the mold, I found in Marianne a safe shelter. Her calm strength, her intelligence, and her warmth created a space where I was never “too much”—I was just me.

She raised Lois as a single mother while working in high-level federal roles most of us couldn’t even wrap our heads around. She had this quiet strength and a sparkle of wit that made her presence both grounding and inspiring. Later in life, thanks to social media, I reconnected with Lois—and to my absolute delight, with Marianne too. She was a regular on Facebook, and we’d talk about everything: politics, civil rights, parenting, history, grandkids, and life. She loved performing at her church, completing puzzles, playing her dulcimer, and hand belles, and of course spending time with her beloved family.

We shared a few breakfasts together, and we kept making plans for more, but life—as it does—got in the way. And then came the news of surgeries, setbacks, and finally, the heartbreaking diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. I regret not telling her what she meant to me. I regret not saying “I love you” when I had the chance. But I hope she knew.

Marianne Emilie Gray, age 87, passed away on October 2, 2025. She leaves behind a legacy of strength, intellect, humor, and love. She served nearly 30 years in the federal government, rising from clerk-typist to supervisory management analyst at Fort Ben. She was also a proud member of Sigma Kappa, a lover of music and handbells, and an active volunteer in her community and church.

More than anything, Marianne was a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and friend. She is survived by her beloved daughter, Lois Icard Miller (Steve); grandchildren Stephanie (Blake) and Sarah; great-grandchildren Barrett and Wren; and sister Sally (Mike), along with many nieces and nephews.

My heart is with Lois, her family, and all who loved Marianne. I’ll carry her memory with me always—especially that feeling of safety, joy, and acceptance she gave a young girl just trying to find her place in the world.

Rest well, Marianne. You were truly one of the greats.

Julie Bush - October 06, 2025 at 11:09 AM

RH

Went to high school with Marianne and we were both Chicks of 56. Rest well

Rosalie Robison Hunt - October 06, 2025 at 07:03 PM

JG

“ *Marianne had a sweet spirit and a great sense of humor. I always enjoyed talking with her many times because she was an extremely interesting conversationalist who possessed such a wide range of knowledge. Most of all, she was just a lovely person with a good heart. I met her when she first started coming to church over 30 years ago. She will be missed by all who ever knew her. My prayers go out to her family on their journey of grief. May the God of all comfort be your constant companion.*

Jan Goodyear

Jan Goodyear - October 05, 2025 at 04:26 PM

SW

“ *I am so sorry to learn of Marianne's death!!! We were sorority sisters and that bond forged a lifetime of memories and visits. We weren't able to visit as much once we reached the 80's, but we kept in touch by texting. We both had two granddaughters and shared many messages about them and their awards/sports/school. BIG hugs and prayers for comfort for the family.*

Sarann Weeks - October 04, 2025 at 05:30 PM

PR

“ *I loved Marianne as soon as I met her at church. She taught me to play Mahjongg, and we played every week for a while until we had to keep other appointments.*

I enjoyed my time with her, and I will miss her humor, her intelligence, and her musical talent, and her love of family and friends! She will be missed so much! Lois, you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers!

Pat Rasnic - October 03, 2025 at 08:19 PM