



## Gayle Jean Leland

July 13, 1946 - April 29, 2026

Gayle Jean Leland, 79, passed away on April 29, 2026. She was born on July 13, 1946, in Chardon, Ohio, to Roland M. Elliot and Marjorie E. Rafuse.

Gayle will be remembered for her strength, honesty, sense of humor, and deep love for her family.

She was active in her community and volunteered with the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Sarasota, where she served as past president several times.

She shared a close bond with her beloved dog, Desi, who was by her side throughout the last years of her life and brought her daily comfort and companionship.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James Leland; her daughter, Shannon Lyn Utman-Murray; and her brother, Wayne Elliott.

She is survived by her companion, John O'Leary; her grandchildren, John Goldstein, Sarah Murray, and Payne Murray; her great-grandchildren, Madison, Jonah, and Juliet; and her brothers, Robert Elliott and Allen Elliott.

Gayle will be remembered for her strong spirit, straightforward nature, sense of humor, and the small everyday things that made her who she was. She

carried a youthful energy and strong personality throughout her life. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered. Her love, presence, and legacy will live on in all who knew her.

A funeral service will be held May 20, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. at Toale Brothers Funeral Home, 40 N Orange Ave, Sarasota, FL 34236.

A committal service will follow at 1:30 p.m. at Sarasota National Cemetery, 9810 State Road 72 (Clark Road), Sarasota, FL 34241.

A celebration of life will be held May 23, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at the Fraternal Order of Eagles, 8347 N Lockwood Ridge Rd, Sarasota, FL 34243.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Sarasota County Animal Services in her memory.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

MAY 20. 11:30 AM (ET)

Toale Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory - Colonial Chapel  
40 N. Orange Avenue  
Sarasota, FL 34236  
(941) 955-4171  
info@toalebrothers.com  
<https://www.toalebrothers.com/>

## Committal Service

MAY 20. 1:30 PM (ET)

Sarasota National Cemetery  
9810 State Rd 72  
Sarasota, FL 34241  
(941) 922-7200

## A Celebration of Life

MAY 23. 2:00 PM (ET)

Fraternal Order of Eagles  
8347 N Lockwood Ridge Road  
Sarasota, FL 34243

# Tribute Wall

SM

“ Grandma, you were really one of a kind and I am extremely grateful and happy I got to be apart of your life and you apart of mine! Thank you for always being there for me with support and guidance! We are really going to miss you!!!

*I love you!*



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**Sarah Murray** - May 17 at 12:44 PM

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“ Gayle was a Beautiful person inside and out. Her love for her family was tremendous. Her and John were great together. Her Granddaughter and Great granddaughter were her life. (as well as her other Grand Children). She was my neighbor for years, "You will be missed my friend". Your an Angel now! watching over us all. Miss You! John and Patti Urbancik ❤️

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**Patti Urbancik** - May 14 at 09:24 AM

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“ I will always remember our friendship. The heart aches, love, endurance and adventures we shared. 65 years of friendship! My good friend, till we meet again may you RIP

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**Nancy Danahy** - May 12 at 08:37 PM