



## Gloria Jean Bailey

August 11, 1951 - April 9, 2026

Gloria Jean Bailey, our beloved mother, grandmother, wife, sister, and friend to all, passed peacefully at the age of 74 on April 9, 2026, after suffering a short illness that she faced with remarkable strength and courage. She left this world in peace and compassion, surrounded by her immediate loved ones. Born on August 11, 1951, in Charleston, WV, to Wallace and Virginia Byrd, Gloria came from a family whose roots reach back to the famous Hatfield and McCoy families. She carried that heritage with quiet pride throughout her life, as she was a member of the William Morris chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for years, along with some of her sisters. Some of Gloria's fondest and most cherished memories with her sisters were meeting up for their annual "Sisters Weekend" for many years. She loved sitting in her beach chair watching the sun glisten over the water, with her feet touching the waves, and talking to her sister Sharon for hours on end.

Gloria was young when motherhood found her, which gave her the privilege to grow right alongside her children and navigate the new chapter with such joy. She grew up to be the kind of mother who didn't just raise her children — she loved them into the people they became. While her children always kept her on her toes and maybe added a few gray hairs over the years, she handled motherhood with her typical mix of patience, humor, and the occasional deep, eye raising voice that said, "Lord, give me strength." To Gloria, being a mother to her son and daughter, and watching them become the people they are

today, was one of the greatest honors and joys of her life.

She was lovingly known to her grandchildren and great grandchildren as “Granny,” a name that carried with it a lifetime of warmth, comfort, and unconditional love. Some of their most cherished memories were made during many sleepovers and long days spent at her home, where laughter, comfort, and endless hugs were always present. Whether it was playing, talking, or simply being in her presence, she had a way of making every moment feel special and every child feel deeply loved. She embodied the image of a devoted grandmother and great grandmother in every sense — always ready with open arms, a listening ear, and a heart willing to do anything to bring joy to those she loved. Her affection was constant and unwavering, and the memories created with her will remain treasured for generations.

Then came the chapter in her life that made her sparkle even brighter. She met her wife Debora, a musician with rhythm in her fingers and love in her voice. Debora and Gloria spent 15 years building a life that was equal parts laughter, music, and “Honey, do you really need more yarn?” The answer was yes... ALWAYS yes. Together, they created a home and shared a life that few have — a life of family and a friend network that was always there when needed. As a good friend once said, “Friends are the family we choose” — and Gloria embraced this throughout her entire life. Gloria stitched warmth into the world with her creative projects while Debora filled it with melody — but her passing isn’t the end of that life, just an adjustment to a new one.

When Debora came into her life, she didn’t come alone — she brought the whole Greathouse Six family with her, a lively, musical, game board loving world that fit Gloria like the missing piece of a pattern she’d been stitching for years. That family brought a world built on the love of music and togetherness that made her heart feel full in a way she cherished deeply.

Gloria was brought into the world with a big heart and an unbelievable talent for turning yarn into anything you could imagine. If kindness could sit down with a ball of yarn and make something beautiful, it would look a whole lot like Gloria. She poured such love and talent into every single item she created for the many people in her life. Her house was always filled with her endless supply of yarn in every color you can imagine, with closets and baskets full of patterns — things she loved, intended to crochet, or simply enjoyed having nearby, knowing that someday she would bring those patterns to life. She turned her endless collection of yarn into everything imaginable — hats, blankets, sweaters, stuffed animals, dolls, flowers, oddly shaped things, and, well, anything she could find a pattern for. Because if it could be crocheted, she could make it. Gloria never met a challenge she didn't think she could fix with a hook and a little determination.

Gloria's generosity didn't stop at her family. She gave her time, her energy, and her care — even on days when she didn't feel well herself — to others. She'd show up with a bright smile, a listening ear, and usually a handmade item she would tell you she “just whipped up real quick,” even though it might have taken her a few hours and some choice words to herself in between the winding, unwinding, and restarting until each piece was just right in her mind.

She lived a life stitched together with humor, generosity, stubbornness, softness, and a fierce love for her family and friends. She touched every person she met — not lightly, but deeply, in the way only truly good souls can.

Gloria leaves behind a large family and friend network who will forever feel her love in every memory, every story, every laugh, and every handmade gift she ever made. She leaves behind a wife who cherished her, children who grew strong because of her, a son in law and her Norwegian family she loved fiercely, grandchildren and great grandchildren who carry her spark, sisters

and brothers in law who cherish every memory and phone call they had with her, a bonus family who treated her as one of their own, and the many friends who will miss her warmth for the rest of their days. Most of all, she leaves behind a world that is softer, kinder, and more beautiful because she was in it.

Gloria was preceded in death by her parents, Wallace and Virginia Byrd; her brother, Wallace "Wally" Byrd; and her sisters, Patricia "Patty" Wilson and Carolyn Snodgrass.

She is survived by her loving wife of 15 years, Debora Greathouse; her son, Jonathan Bailey of Cross Lanes; her daughter, Lisa (Even) Røstøen of Asker, Norway; and her sisters, Sandra (Steve) Childress of Alum Creek and Sharon (Richard) Shea of Vero Beach, Florida.

She is also survived by her grandchildren, John (Sarah) Swisher of Winfield, Jennifer Bailey of Cross Lanes, and Erik and Max Røstøen of Asker, Norway; as well as her great grandchildren, Jackson and Sloane Swisher. In addition, she leaves behind many beloved cousins, nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests donations to the American Lung Association or the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America in Gloria's honor. Your generosity will help carry forward the compassion she shared so freely.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at 3:00 pm Saturday, May 23, 2026 at Angela's On the River, #2 6th Avenue, St. Albans.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAY **23**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Angela's On The River  
#2 6th Avenue  
St. Albans, WV 25177

# Tribute Wall

WR

“ Dear Gloria we are so sad. You have left us, your family and friends. We will never forget your smile and kindness, and we love all the handmade things you have sent us during several years.

*They will always remind us of you!*

*You visited us several times in Norway, and now we think of the trip up to our hut in Valdres.*

*You enjoyed the tour to Jotunheimen in a beautiful weather with Lisa, Even, Jan and me. We enjoyed to be together with this lady in high spirit!*

*Even has been very lucky having had a mother in law like you!*

*We are sure you must have missed your daughter a lot, far away from her mother! You did not complain; you let Even take her to Norway. We are very happy with Lisa; she is a very good daughter in law, whom we love. Thank you for everything Gloria! Wenche og Jan in Norway.*



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**Wenche Roestoen** - April 21 at 07:57 AM

CM

“ Rest in Peace Aunt Gloria. I will miss you but I will always remember our times together when I spent summers with daddy. You were a big part of those years and I am thankful for those memories. ❤️

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**Cheryl Merritt** - April 18 at 09:37 AM

EO

*To all the family of Gloria Bailey, Rob and I are so very sorry for your loss. We met Gloria at Barnyard BBQ in Teays Valley years ago when her wife, Debora Greathouse and her family would play music and sing. We loved Gloria. She was always so kind and so interesting to talk to. Never knew a stranger. She always spoke to Mom and gave her a hug...making Mom feel so loved. Look for Mom in heaven, Gloria, and you'll meet my Dad and most of my relatives too. They will love you, I'm sure. Rest in peace until we see you again!*

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**Elizabeth OQuinn** - April 18 at 10:54 AM



“ *I never got to know Gloria, but I will tell you that she made an impact in my life. I was in college and my friend Jessica was close with Glorias daughter Lisa. I got to meet Gloria once and learned she was a a member of the LGBT community. As a terrified young gay woman just knowing that a beautiful, loving caring person who was proud to be who she was helped me to accept myself. I will never forget that meeting that day. I'm so sorry Lisa. Sending you my love.*

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**Catherine Martin** - April 15 at 05:26 PM

LS

“ *Gloria, when we met it was at a time when your little self needed protection, and fiercely protective is what we felt. Once you got your legs under you, you became so strong and resilient. Your smile lit up your eyes, your whole face, and a room! You were so positive, often when I was not. I remember how you would gather the troops to help anyone in need. You produced wonderful kids and grandkids who will carry your brand on to others and there's no greater accomplishment than that. I am sorry for not keeping in touch more and letting life get on the way. I love you and will miss you, remembering the you we all are better for knowing. Prayers for Lisa, Jonathan, and family for comfort and peace. Rest easy girl. ~Kim and Leigh Thompson*

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**Leigh Shell-Thompson** - April 15 at 12:38 PM

DK

“ Rest in Peace, Gloria. I enjoyed working with you in the federal court and keeping in touch via FB since I retired. Thank you for your service and your friendship.

Danny Kuhn - April 14 at 08:12 PM

J(

“ Gloria was one of the kindest and most caring individuals I've ever met! She always had a smile to share and an encouraging word about whatever phase of life I was in. I'm thankful she became a part of the Greathouse/Six family so that I was able to meet her as well! I was shocked to read "15 years" because it just felt like she'd always been there as long as I can remember. She will be so very missed! Praying for all of her beloved family and friends during this heartbreaking time.

Jessica Smith (Parsons) - April 14 at 10:02 AM

NR

I'm so sad to hear of her passing! Gloria was kind, positive & such a sweet Lady! I knew her many years ago , when I was at a low point in my life! She gave me encouragement & strength in my struggles in life! That Beautiful Smile could radiate a room! I wished we would have kept in touch but we each traveled our own paths. I will never forget the compassion she showed me ❤️ Lov & Prayers to her wife, children & grandchildren! Rest Easy my Friend 🙏🌹

Nancy Ramsey - April 15 at 02:07 PM

LR

“ My beautiful, wonderful Mumsie mom. How am I going to get through my day without the 25 texts or images of cats with little crochet hats? How am I going to do this? I can't imagine my world without you in it - it's your light and sunshine, and your love for me that has gotten me through so many dark times. We've had so many wonderful memories...through childhood, through my college years, through motherhood, through empty nesting. If I had a thought, a comment or a meme, you were my go to person to send it. Even though we lived so far away, we were still so close, probably talking more than was healthy lol. But, you've always been my biggest cheerleader in life, made me feel loved and cherished in every possible way, and in the end, your bravery and courage going through the battle you did made me the proudest daughter in the world. I'm so glad I made it back in time so we got to look each other in the eyes and say we loved each other, how proud we were of each other and how our love would carry on until we met again. Mom - I love you so much, every day since has been met with extreme sorrow, but also extreme relief that you didn't suffer. I love you so much- we will all be here for each other to carry your memory, the pieces of your heart left behind, and the joy of seeing the life you created in every nook, cranny and craft that you continued until your last days. - Love you my Mumsie. xo Lisa

Lisa Rostoen - April 14 at 09:46 AM

KS

So sorry for your loss prayers for you and your family and friends 🙏  
Rip 🙏

Kathy Summers - April 14 at 05:41 PM

KS

It hard to believe she gone I've know your mom for long time she was a sweet woman my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Prayers going up.

Kathy Summers - April 14 at 05:49 PM

JG

*So sad to hear this news. I went to grade school with Gloria. We reconnected on FB. Rest in Peace, Gloria.*

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**jane Garnett** - April 15 at 11:00 AM

BG

*Gloria was a lovely woman who met all of life's challenges with grace. She raised two wonderful children, and her kids went to Fernbank and on to Jr. High and GW with my children. (I remember their pride when Lisa was tapdancing up a storm on the stage at (Fernbank), and my daughter, Sarah Warnock Flotteron, and she have remained friends for years. I recall the springtime when green beans would be staked and strung with twine in their backyard for what had to be a massive harvest. Lots of us on the Hill were onto canning in those days. I am so thankful that Lisa got to see her mom that last time; it had to be hard (but happy) living in Norway. Now, Gloria has left, but her family and friends will ever remember her as kind, caring woman who loved deeply.*

*Brooke Warnock Golden.*

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**Brooke Warnock Golden** - April 15 at 11:11 AM