



Gayle Ilene Connell Olenick

March 24, 1939 - December 14, 2025

Gayle Ilene Connell Olenick, beloved Mother, esteemed leader, and passionate genealogy enthusiast, passed away on December 14, 2025 at the age of 86. She was born in San Antonio, Texas on March 24, 1939. Gayle attended Alamo Heights High School before embarking on a distinguished 36 year career at USAA, where she made pioneering strides as a female in the area of “computer operations”. Starting as a trainee, Gayle's dedication and talent elevated her to the position of Manager of Computer Operations (and later Command Center). Her commitment to the career development of her staff was highly valued by peers and leadership at USAA.

Beyond her illustrious career, Gayle cherished time spent with family and friends. Whether at her welcoming home, or the lake house, the river or a local gathering spot for conversation and music, she found joy in the company of loved ones. One of Gayle's greatest passions was genealogy where her talent and efforts were highly regarded, as evidenced by the brick gifted to her in front of the Panna Maria Catholic Church for her extensive historical research on the original Polish settlers to America, particularly in the Panna Maria area where they established their initial homesteads. Gayle also formerly proudly served as an election judge for the City of Leon Valley.

Those who visited Gayle's home know that she absolutely loved to build and nurture a beautiful yard. As a do it yourself gardener/landscaper, she worked

tirelessly to achieve lush and beautiful surroundings. She was twice awarded the Leon Valley Beautification Award for her efforts.

Above all, Gayle's proudest accomplishments were her two children, Ed and Sherry. She dedicated herself to nurturing and shaping their characters and laying the foundation for their successful careers. Gayle's unwavering support and extremely active involvement in their lives were a testament to her immense love and dedication as a Mother. Never was there an event in which they were involved that they couldn't look out and see their Mother proudly supporting them.

Gayle is survived by her daughter, Sherry Hultsman (David); daughter in law, Sue Olenick (Ed); sister, Gloria Weiss (Roger) and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. She is predeceased by her husband Edwin Olenick Sr.; son Ed Olenick Jr.; parents, Gerald Spear Connell and Gladys Whitley Connell; brother Gerald "Jerry" Connell; and brother Glenn Connell.

In honoring her memory, let us remember Gayle for her exemplary leadership, unwavering devotion to family, and deep passion for preserving history. Her legacy of dedication and love will forever be treasured by those who were fortunate enough to know her. If you wish to honor Gayle's love for and commitment to genealogy, please consider donating to the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria. www.polishheritagecentertx.org.

Cemetery Details

Mission Burial Park North at Dominion

20900 IH-10 W.
San Antonio, TX 78257

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 28. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels and Cemetery Dominion
20900 IH 10 W
San Antonio, TX 78257
(210) 698-5252
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Chapel Service

DEC 29. 11:00 AM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels and Cemetery Dominion
20900 IH 10 W
San Antonio, TX 78257
(210) 698-5252
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Graveside service to follow

Reception to follow interment

DEC **29** (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels and Cemetery Dominion
20900 IH 10 W
San Antonio, TX 78257
(210) 698-5252
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Tribute Wall

KH

“ *Gayle was a wonderful mother and grandmother!! She was an inspiration and a loving human being!! I am so sorry she has passed but glad she was in my life and can provide so many happy memories and joy to her family!* ”



Kira Hartgrove - January 11 at 10:10 AM

FO

“ *Franklin & Kay Olenick purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Gayle Ilene Connell Olenick.* ”



Franklin & Kay Olenick - December 26, 2025 at 05:58 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Gayle Ilene Connell Olenick.* ”



December 22, 2025 at 09:06 AM

MC

“ Sherry, I am so deeply sorry for the loss of your sweet mother. I know this must be an incredibly difficult time. Please know that you did so much for her and were an amazing source of love and support. You were devoted to keeping her as comfortable as possible, and you truly could not have been a more loving daughter —something she undoubtedly cherished. May your precious memories bring you comfort and strength during this time.

Mary Sue Corpion - December 21, 2025 at 08:24 PM

SS

“ My sincere condolences. Gayle was a beautiful soul. She will always be missed, always remembered always loved. May she rest in peace. 💕🙏💕

Suzanne Sheppard - December 20, 2025 at 07:33 PM

BM

“ Sherry and David--Kim and I are so sorry for your loss. We will keep your mother and you in our prayers. May you find peace during this time of grieving.

Biaggio & Kim McPhee - December 19, 2025 at 11:28 AM

EH

“ Sending so much love to you Sherry and family as you grieve this enormous loss. The beautiful bond you shared was evident , and the care and devotion you gave each other will always be a testament to the unwavering love you both had. What an incredible and long life she lived! Sending love and light and comfort now and as you navigate life moving forward.

Erika Hultsman - December 18, 2025 at 08:58 PM

TF

“ *The English Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gayle Ilene Connell Olenick.*



The English Family - December 18, 2025 at 12:55 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Gayle Ilene Connell Olenick.*

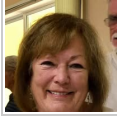


December 18, 2025 at 10:07 AM

MH

“ *Sherry and David, our heartfelt sympathy to you and your family. Mrs. Gayle was such a fun person to be around and I have wonderful memories of lunch in Boerne with her at our girls gathering. Sherry, you took loving care of your Mother, a devoted daughter. I know you and David will miss her. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Love, Monica and Jay.*

Monica Harmon - December 17, 2025 at 07:58 PM



Sherry, David and family. I me Gayle in 1995, a year after I met Eddie. We arrived on San Antonio and she was so welcoming and kind to me and Jen. We had a fabulous time from dinners and meeting family. We had many nights of late night talking and we grew close. She was a great mother and supporter of both you and Eddie. Through good times and hard times we stood together. There is no doubt in my mind how much No you both admired and loved her. I know I will miss her as will Jen and the kids. I hope you find solace in your memories and your dedication to her for her last years. You are an amazing daughter. I love you and admire you. May she rest in peace being with her son and husband. I will see you soon.

Sue Olenick - December 20, 2025 at 10:05 PM

KJ

“ Sherry and David, I know how truly devastated ya'll are over the loss of Gayle. A life well lived, sweet, and very, very kind to me. She will leave a big empty spot in my life and heart. Kathy Johnson

Kathy C. Johnson - December 17, 2025 at 06:37 PM

RO

“ Gayle was such a sweet person. She joined our girls group luncheon occasions and was always such a joy to be around. She loved her children Ed and Sherry and she loved life. She will be missed greatly.

Rebecca Oliver - December 17, 2025 at 06:20 PM

AC

“ Sherry, you and Mrs Gayle had such a special bond. I know you are devastated and will miss her more than anything. Alain and I are so sorry for your loss.

Assia Chamberlain - December 17, 2025 at 05:50 PM

AF

“ Our deepest condolences to Sherry, David and her family. Gayle was a beautiful soul who will be dearly missed. She enjoyed every day and always had a warm smile on her face. May you find comfort in the cherished memories you hold. She will never be forgotten.

Amy Ferris - December 17, 2025 at 05:39 PM

DH

“ Gayles passing is such a loss; irreplaceable for those who have had the benefit of her time and life over the years. Her kindness and generosity; her friendship and dedication to family.....Just a life that was lived full and now so much is already missed.

David Hultsman - December 17, 2025 at 04:32 PM

CB

“ Caffrey and I so enjoyed the times we stayed with you in San Antonio. I treasure those memories!

Cindy Barwin - December 17, 2025 at 04:30 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Gayle Ilene Connell Olenick.



December 17, 2025 at 03:35 PM