



Sharon A. Gayda

November 29, 1946 - August 17, 2016

Sharon Ann Gayda (nee Kosakowski), Age 69 of Merrillville IN. passed away in peace on August 17th, 2016. Sharon was a resident of the Merrillville/Hobart area, most recently holding court at the Brookdale Community Center in Merrillville.

Sharon was a long time player on the retail market in Merrillville, working at the legendary Midwest giant retailer Kmart store on US 30. Serving and leading in its heyday for 18 years as the Queen of the customer service desk. Becoming quite legendary and some say mythical in the industry for her strong work and honest ethics, Sharon challenged the most questionable customers who tried to take advantage of the stores relaxed return policies, Sharon fought the good fight and never allowed these customers to take advantage of Kmart's policies and upheld the stores integrity. These customers who found that they could no longer take advantage or get one over on Sharon at Kmart turned their unscrupulous ways to the newly built Meijer Foods Store, only to once again be surprised and thwarted by Sharon as she took over the helm of the customer service desk at this store and righteously continued her fight for over 10 years with Meijer's. Over the years, Sharon had made many friends at both stores and quite often they would come to visit with her and catch up on life. Realizing that she had done all that she could do in the industry, Sharon looked at a life of retirement and ease and settled comfortably in her home in Hobart. Soon after, Sharon

discovered that a new life of bingo, socializing and new friends were in her future and took up residence at the Brookdale Community Center in Merrillville, where she once again quickly took over the mantle of being Queen of bingo and other social activities. Sharon had a love of socializing with her friends; both new and old and always kept tabs of everyone's growing families, coming and goings and shared in their happiness and successes. Always on the go, she and her sister Cindy would often travel around the area doing anything and everything, whether they were invited or not. A close family, Sharon shared many laughs and great times with her other sisters Linda, Nancy, Kimberly and her brother Edward as well. Together, all 6 of them inspired what a close family who loved each other and shared what a family should be.

Sharon is preceded in death by her husband, Richard J. Gayda, who loved her immensely and fondly referred to her as the "wife", her daughter Tammy Lynn Vlastic and her parents Edward & Cecelia Kosakowski. She is survived by her two sons, Ron (Laurie) Vlastic, Tom (Ronald Tuan-Mu) Vlastic, daughters Jennifer Mohoi & Kathleen (Edward) Yonushatis as well as grandchildren; Christian, Madison, Nicholas & Ava Vlastic, Ethan & Payton Mohoi, new arrival, Collin Yonushatis and great grandson Foster Vlastic.

Friends may visit with Sharon's family on Saturday, August 20, 2016 at Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point from 2 p.m. until the time of service at 6 p.m. www.burnsfuneral.com

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **20**. 2:00 AM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point
10101 Broadway
Crown Point, IN 46307
(219) 769-0044
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Funeral Service

AUG **20**. 6:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point
10101 Broadway
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Tribute Wall

RL

“ Sharon was such a light in the world. Her laughter was infectious and her love of family was truly felt. I will always remember her with a smile. Love to all of you during this time. Roni Langford (Garza)

Roni Langford - August 26, 2016 at 06:13 AM

TV

Roni, Thank You ❤️

Tom Vlastic - August 03, 2021 at 10:18 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.



August 20, 2016 at 10:47 AM

AN

“ Loved you so much Sharon you were the best and sweetest mama ever

Anastasia - August 20, 2016 at 09:32 AM



“ Sharon Gayda was my mother and now my guardian angel. As a child, I will never forget mom raised us (Ron, Jen, and myself) alone in Gary, Indiana in the 70's and early 80's.

Mom taught us early on to stay in school, be thankful for what you have, and to always do the right thing. Mom was a very independent and strong woman who would do anything for her children, never once laying a hand on us (though she was vocal as we all know and love about her) even though there were times she should have.

Mom worked full time during the day as a cashier and as a bartender during the evenings to ensure the rent was paid every month, food was put on the table, and all of her children's needs were met. Even though we didn't have much we were always very happy and to this day my brother and sisters remain close.

After meeting her true soul mate, Richard Gayda (aka, dad), mom re-married and they had a daughter together, Kathleen, who became my mom's 5th child. Her 2nd child and my twin sister, Tammy Lynn Vlastic, passed away right before Thanksgiving 1968 at 3 months of age. When mom married dad, mom always made sure to treat each one of her children equally and never played favoritism.

When I turned 29, I realized that I was gay. Back then it was taboo to be such a person or to even out yourself to your family. I was mortified at informing my mother but knew that I had to. When I finally had the courage to tell her of my sexuality, she was completely accepting and never treated me any differently. When I met my long term partner, I introduced him to mom who welcomed him with open arms and always treated him as her son as well.

In mom's later years, she enjoyed attending the yearly Breast Cancer Awareness (Pink Ribbon) walks in Chicago, spending time with her grandchildren and her 1 great grandchild, traveling, and her vices which were slot machines and shopping when she had the

money to do it.

In the end, all 4 of her surviving children turned out to be successful and never not once got into any type of legal trouble, except a driving ticket here and there.

I am proud to say mom raised the following:

- 1. Regional Vice President at a major hotel chain*
- 2. Nurse Case Manager at a major insurance company*
- 3. X-Ray Technician & full time mom*
- 4. Manager & full time mom*

Mom, thank you for everything you did for your family. We were very fortunate to have you as our mother.

I love you forever.

Your son, Tom



Tom Vlastic - August 19, 2016 at 10:01 PM

JC

*That was awesome tom!!
Xoxo*

julie chandler - August 20, 2016 at 11:54 AM

KV

She was all that more 🥹

karen Vlastic - August 20, 2016 at 12:08 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.*



August 19, 2016 at 07:45 PM



“ *Judy and Verl Elms purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.*



Judy and Verl Elms - August 19, 2016 at 03:52 PM



“ *Jay Smogolski and The Smogolski Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.*



Jay Smogolski and The Smogolski Family - August 19, 2016 at 02:11 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.*



August 19, 2016 at 12:59 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.*



August 19, 2016 at 12:22 PM



“ *Sue Logsdon purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.*



Sue Logsdon - August 19, 2016 at 12:00 PM



“ *The Hotel Monaco Team purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.*



The Hotel Monaco Team - August 19, 2016 at 11:41 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.*



August 19, 2016 at 11:09 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.



August 19, 2016 at 09:51 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray* was purchased for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.



August 19, 2016 at 07:46 AM



“ *Amy, Paul . Glenn. Connor, and Aidan* purchased the *Cheryl's Classic Bakery Tower* for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.



Amy, Paul . Glenn. Connor, and Aidan - August 18, 2016 at 08:00 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.



August 18, 2016 at 06:28 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.



August 18, 2016 at 05:33 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.



August 18, 2016 at 05:18 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.



August 18, 2016 at 05:05 PM



“ *Sunny Memories* was purchased for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.



August 18, 2016 at 03:21 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.



August 18, 2016 at 02:37 PM



“ Of all my cousins I was closest to Sharon. I will miss the chats we had over the years. Together we were troopers and stood up for things that were right. Now we stand alone but one day in the future will again unite and stand together again. To the other family members I express my deepest sympathy for I too feel your pain in the loss of such a wonderful person. ~Cousin Johnny

John Blake - August 18, 2016 at 01:43 PM



“ John Blake lit a candle in memory of Sharon A. Gayda



John Blake - August 18, 2016 at 01:32 PM



“ Deepest sympathy to the family. As a former classmate at Lew Wallace High School I remember her gentle smile and friendliness to all.

Karen A Jordan - August 18, 2016 at 01:09 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.*



August 18, 2016 at 10:26 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.*



August 18, 2016 at 10:10 AM



“ *The Staff at Hotel Burnham purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.*



The Staff at Hotel Burnham - August 18, 2016 at 10:09 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.*



August 18, 2016 at 10:01 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.



August 18, 2016 at 09:39 AM



“ All of our family from the Illinois Hotel and Lodging Association want to express our sincerest condolences to Ron Vlastic and his entire family on the loss of Ron's mother. Our prayers go out to the family and friends of Ms. Sharon A. Garda as they mourn her loss. Marc Gordon

Marc Gordon - August 18, 2016 at 07:15 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.



August 17, 2016 at 09:16 PM



“ Linda Webb, Luis & Mindy Escamilla purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.



Linda Webb, Luis & Mindy Escamilla - August 17, 2016 at 09:15 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.



August 17, 2016 at 08:53 PM



“ *William Dumpman, Michael Isaac, & Zero* purchased the *Enchanted Cottage* for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.



William Dumpman, Michael Isaac, & Zero - August 17, 2016 at 07:19 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.



August 17, 2016 at 06:00 PM



“ *Pretty Please* was purchased for the family of Sharon A. Gayda.



August 17, 2016 at 05:53 PM

BN

“ We love and miss you Aunt Sharon. May God bless and protect you eternally in heaven. Rest in peace.



Bill, Renae & Emily Neuenfeld - August 17, 2016 at 05:24 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Tom's photos of his mother



Tom Vlasic - August 17, 2016 at 03:40 PM