



Gay Lorraine Michalski

August 29, 1944 - March 13, 2025

Gay Lorraine Michalski (né Zimmer) died peacefully on March 13, 2025 at Westminster Woods on Julington Creek, St. Johns, FL, where she has resided since the death of her beloved husband Ronald J. Michalski.

Gay was born August 29, 1944, in San Francisco, CA, and raised in Dearborn, Michigan. She graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a teaching certificate. Instead of pursuing teaching immediately, she and Ron married June 9, 1967, and started a family, raising two daughters: Nicki and Catherine. As her daughters grew, she returned to her teaching career and discovered her true calling was working with, as she called them, “the little ones” rather than the high school students she had originally intended to work with. She spent many years teaching for the Head Start Program in both Baldwin and Fountain, Michigan as well as the Baldwin School District. One of her great joys was running into former students and seeing how well they were doing. After retirement, she and Ron followed a long-standing dream of travelling the United States. They bought an RV and spent much of the year on the road. Unfortunately, this dream was cut short by Ron’s cancer diagnosis. The two moved in with Cathy and her family, where they stayed until it was no longer medically feasible. After his death, Gay moved to Westminster, which she often referred to as “a good place to live.” It is close to the water she loved and had many activities to suit her social-butterfly nature. The family would like to thank the amazing people at Westminster Woods for

making Gay's final years enjoyable and comfortable.

Gay was preceded in death by her husband Ron Michalski, her mother Madgalene Krasson and her stepfather Albert Krasson. She is survived by daughters Nicki Michalski (Blaine Graham and Kevin Morrell), Catherine Prohofsky (David Prohofsky), and grandchildren Abigail Prohofsky (Susanna Luciano), Joshua Prohofsky, Benjamin Prohofsky, and Daniel Prohofsky. She is also survived by sister Kimberly Krasson.

A private memorial for family will be held at a later date.

Cemetery Details

St Johns Crematory

385 State Road 207
Saint Augustine, FL 32084

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

MH

“*Dear Family and Friends,
I send you my heart felt condolences on your loss. Gay's passing is a loss to all who knew her. Gay and I were childhood friends. We met at St. Clements school in the 4th grade, and became best buddies. Our childhood together was one of the sweetest times of my life, and Gay was part of all the important parts of growing up. There were sleep overs, doing homework after school together, watching Spin and Marty and riding our bikes on endless trips. We made up all sorts of adventures with our little neighborhood as the back drop for all of our many fantasies. Childhood was simple back then. Finding some old piece of coal which we'd dug up in the back yard, turned into an afternoon of discovering buried treasures. Our walks in the nearby Woods could never be topped by anyone's expensive vacation, because everywhere we went we had the fun of being friends and sharing dreams. I had so many meals at Gay's house, I'm surprised they didn't finally kick me out the door, but instead her family - Mom, Grandma, and Cousins were so warm and welcoming to me, a kid who had no brothers or sisters. When we reached our teens we enjoyed a wonderful group of girls and boys, and shared all those teenage experiences, a first teenage crush, learning the latest new rock and roll dances, worrying about our grades, our looks, our families, generally supporting each other through those formative growing up years. Gay always gave so much to her family, and all her friends. Her smile showed what a beautiful person she was inside and out. That phrase is often used, but in Gay's case it is so true. Rest in peace, my dear friend. You have left behind a world of happy memories for all those you have touched. Yours truly was a life well lived.*”

Mary Heinz - March 27, 2025 at 11:40 AM

DL

“ Dear Ones, Gay & I met when we were 4 yrs. old. It was an instant friendship with her radiant smile and zest for life. Our adventures went from catching polywogs in coffee cans and Ball canning jars to playing "kick the can", and softball games! Our neighborhood was filled with more great friends and classmates, thankfully it stayed that way thru Graduation from Fordson H.S.



We both drove early 50's cars, yes with a clutch and stick shift. Having a drivers license was our ticket to adventures. We visited with her cousins in Garden City, went out to Harsens Island to play cards with her Uncle Buddy, went to the U of D Sock Hops, the Civic Center Dances (where our classmate George Brown was the D.J.) and trips out to Camp Dearborn. We double dated many times and had lots of favorite songs...Johnney Mathis, Elvis, The Shirelles, Bobby Darin, the list is endless. Roller Skating Rinks, Edgewater Amusement park, & a Boblo Boat ride out the Island with amusement rides!

I was a bridesmaid in Gay & Rons Wedding on June 9th 1963. Gay was a bridesmaid in my Wedding on August 12th, 1963. Gays Mother Maggie was quite the seamstress and she made white satin arm bags with a lace ruffle all around the outside for us to collect our guests gift cards in. I still have mine too. I love & miss you my friend of 79 years, Hugs for your girls Nikki & Cathy.

Donella Bottomley Laskowsky

Donlla Bottomley Laskowsky - March 22, 2025 at 05:23 PM