



## Mary Kay Strickland

November 27, 1962 - February 9, 2024

On February 9th, 2024 Mary Kay Strickland Schlenk passed unexpectedly and went to meet her savior. She is survived by her daughter, Kathryn Elizabeth 'Liz' Strickland, husband, Philip Schlenk, step daughters Morgan Spikard, Michelle Schlenk, Brynly Phan, stepson Michael Schlenk, two grandsons Timothy and Matthew Spikard, brother Travis James 'Ooty' Ouzts, sister Kathryn Elizabeth 'Kathy' Corley, and brother-in-law Wayne Corley.

Mary Kay led a vibrant life, always the life of the party (until about 8PM). She was a beautiful bright light and touched so many peoples' lives. Above everything else (except Jesus), Mary Kay loved being on the water, a passion instilled in her from an early age by her father, an avid fisherman whom she admired more than anyone else on this planet. Whether it was attending swim team meets at her community pool growing up or learning to water ski on Lake Lanier, her happy place was always, and will forever be, on the water.

Apart from her daddy, her brother Ooty and sister Kathy were two of the most influential and important people to her growing up. Her and her brother were just close enough in age to enjoy their teenage years together. Mary Kay and her sister were 10 years apart, but her sister was her rock and role model from the start. Incredibly driven, Mary Kay graduated from high school at the

young age of 16, starting college while living with Kathy and her brother-in-law, Wayne.

Mary Kay's career in hospitality, selling handwoven carpets to luxury hotels for over 30 years, was marked by significant achievements, from contributing to the GA Dome, home of her Atlanta Falcons, the "Dirty Birds," to the JW Marriott, featuring the largest ballroom in the Middle East at the time. But if you were to ask her what her biggest accomplishment was she would say the life long friendships she cultivated throughout her career.

Always knowing she belonged on the water, Mary Kay cherished Panama City beach trips in her 20s, special Lake Burton trips with dear friends, and buying her first boat with her husband at the time, Stan on Lake Lanier. She became a full-fledged parrot head, creating her very own redneck yacht club.

Mary Kay and Stan Strickland were married for 25 years, and from that marriage, she was blessed with one of her most proud accomplishments in life, her daughter, Liz. Mary Kay loved her little girl more than anything in the world. They had an unbreakable bond that was so apparent to anyone they met, and often referred to themselves as the real life Gilmore Girls.

On April 7th, 2018, Phil and Mary Kay were married and shared a fairy tale kind of love. From bonding over their two previous marriages and their love for Aerosmith's "Dream On" on their very first date, it was apparent they were meant to be. In true Mary Kay fashion, she quickly prioritized finding a place on the water for her and Phil. After dating for a few months, they purchased the lake trailer property together and began creating their "ever after" together

on Lake Sinclair. After several years of splitting their time between their house in Lawrenceville and the lake trailer, the two decided to make their final move to the lake, building their dream home where they had planned to spend the rest of their lives together. The house became an oasis for their family and friends to create lifelong memories, fondly referred to as “Sunrise Shores” by her and Phil.

Mary Kay loved her life with Phil on Lake Sinclair, and often referred to it as her paradise on earth. From golf cart rides with her beloved dogs, to the weekly Thursday night sunset cruises with their neighbors, it was always 5 O'clock somewhere.

Mary Kay loved Jesus, and wanted everyone she came in contact with to know and love him just as much as she did. She especially loved sharing her love for Jesus with her two grandsons, Timothy and Matthew. This past summer when she had her grandbabies visit her at the lake, she was sure to do bible study with them every day. It brought her so much joy to share her love for Jesus Christ with the boys.

Mary Kay had a spirit that drew people together and she loved life to the fullest. Her laughter was infectious, a testament to her belief that 'If we couldn't laugh, we would all go insane'. She will forever be missed.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 3 PM in the Chapel of Williams Funeral Home in Milledgeville with Pastor Jonathon Dawson officiating. The family will receive friends at the Funeral

Home from 2PM until the Service Hour on Thursday.

In Lieu of Flowers, Memorial Contributions may be made to the Animal Rescue Foundation, P.O. Box 1032; Milledgeville, GA 31059

The Celebration of Life Service will be Livestreamed on our website for those unable to attend.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **15**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Williams Funeral Home & Crematory - Milledgeville  
1670 N. Jefferson St.  
Milledgeville, GA 31061  
(478) 452-2148  
staff@williamsfuneralhome.net  
<https://www.williamsfuneralhome.net>

## Celebration of Life Service

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# Tribute Wall



“ Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory created a Webcast will start approximately 10 minutes before the service in memory of Mary Kay Strickland



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**Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory** - February 15, 2024 at 01:21 PM

JB

“ I worked with Mary Kay at Mohawk for several years including the Georgia Dome project. MKS was always optimistic, cheerful and really loved working with all around her.

*Prayers for peace and comfort for the family.*

*Rest in Peace Mary Kay.*

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**Jeff Burrow** - March 15, 2024 at 08:19 AM

CR

“ Mary Kay was an amazing woman, full of drive, spirit and love! I still remember the many times she would take a group of us to lunch when I was a designer at DCI many, many years ago, or the times she was proud to show off her six-pack ab's from her daily workouts. She will be greatly missed by many!

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**Cindy Royals** - February 20, 2024 at 12:37 PM

SD

“*Mary Kay was so special. A true light in this world. My condolences to the family. She enjoyed the last few years as a "trophy wife", a title she richly deserved. I said every summer, "I'm going to get down to Lake Sinclair and see her". But I never made it..... She was a great friend and beautiful lady, inside and out. This is just not fair.....I am broken hearted for Phil and Liz and everyone.*

*She will be greatly missed.*

*Sherry Decker*

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**Sherry B Decker** - February 20, 2024 at 11:18 AM

MT

“*Mary Kay was such a wonderful, happy and friendly person and we always loved seeing her and Phil on the pontoon boat, golf cart or walking the dogs. Mary Kay also was such a positive influence on bringing the neighborhood together. We enjoyed spending the time we did with you both and wish it had been more. A very, very sad loss and she will be greatly missed. Our hearts are with Phil and the whole family. - Michael and Todd (Dennis Station lake neighbors)*

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**Michael and Todd** - February 19, 2024 at 12:42 PM

LM

“*Our thoughts and prayers are with you.  
Friends at Johnnie McDade Grocery.(JMG)*



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**Luther Minor** - February 14, 2024 at 11:59 AM

RR

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Robert Refermat - February 14, 2024 at 11:15 AM

CM

“ My deepest and sincerest condolences to Mary Kays family. I met her when we both participated in the Atlanta NEWH Chapter and we both worked in the flooring industry.... and... she always made me laugh. A sweet person is now in the hands of her maker. RIP MK....



CATHY MANSOUR - February 13, 2024 at 02:11 PM

LW

“ She was a significant friend to so many of us. Her contributions and beautiful personality will be well remembered with appreciation and love. She has left the world too soon. Rest in peace Mary Kay. Condolences and prayers - Lynda Welte

Lynda A Welte - February 13, 2024 at 11:47 AM

DR

“ We are all so shocked and saddened by Mary Kay's passing. I worked with Mary Kay for over 30 years in the hospitality industry and became friends along the way. Many happy days at the lake with Alan, Marty, Bill Suzy and so many others. I traveled to England with Mary Kay to see the Couristan carpet mill and what an adventure that trip was, many laughs and fun. She was a light to all who knew her. She loved Liz more than life itself, bringing her new baby to our ADM offices when she was still in a car seat. Her new life with Phil was a blessing and her happy ending. God speed MK, hope you and Chris Kennicott are up there talking carpet adventures and keeping an eye on the rest of us. Love you always!  
Debra Robinson & Guy Robinson

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**Debra Robinson** - February 13, 2024 at 11:45 AM



“ I knew Mary Kay from the gym. She was a regular in my Body Pump and Zumba classes. She lit up the room! I am beyond shocked to hear of her passing, but I'm comforted in the knowledge that she is with Jesus. I will be praying for the friends and family who lost this wonderful woman.

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**Crystal Stair** - February 13, 2024 at 10:52 AM

BR

“ Cecil and I met Mary Kay back in the Lake Lanier days. We were friends immediately. We have so many precious memories. Her body and soul shined always. I thank God we got to meet. I will forever miss you. Until we meet again in heaven, tink me dear friend.

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**Barbara Rhoads** - February 13, 2024 at 10:29 AM

AH

“ Grew up with Mary Kay and her wonderful family in Tucker. Mary Kay was so much fun to play with and she could run faster than anybody on Sarah's Lane. This is Mary Kay and their dog Little Man around 1970 on Sarah's Lane



Andrew Hughes - February 13, 2024 at 10:17 AM

PA

“ I am sitting here in shock as so many others are Mary kay was always so happy when she would see you. She and liz were so supportive of me when Ansley passed away from cancer. I would love when she would tell little kids to wear their shoes when they rode their bikes or they would lose w toe like she did. It did not slow her down! She will be missed by so many! Rest In Peace sweet Mary Kay and prayers for strength for Liz and all of the family

Paige Arnette - February 13, 2024 at 08:42 AM

VO

“ My deepest condolences to the family for your loss. I am honored to know Liz and am humbled by her sweet, dedicated spirit and humble faith. She is a light to all around her and I know that her mom's light lives on in her. All my love and hugs to the family.



Virginia L O'Kelley - February 13, 2024 at 12:04 AM

DE

“ *She loved the Lord, first and foremost, and life, always helping, going out of her way for others and taking care of herself, either working out at the gym, Pilates, swimming at the Clubhouse, working in her yard and spending many hours in her Red golf cart taking her “fur babies” Tori & Ruth (Oinky) neighboring with her many neighbors who Loved her very much!*💕💕

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**Denae** - February 12, 2024 at 09:21 PM