

Gail Jeanne Wirth, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and the heart of the Wirth family, passed away on September 17, 2026, surrounded by the family she devoted her life to.

Gail was born August 28, 1950, in Whittier, California, to Elizabeth Jeanne DeMoore and Gerald Thornton. Raised in the Arcadia area of Phoenix, she attended Gerard Catholic High School, where she earned awards for cooking, and later attended Arizona State University.

While living in Scottsdale, a neighbor introduced Gail to Jim Wirth. That introduction changed both of their lives. Gail and Jim married in 1974, beginning a partnership that would span more than five decades. Together, they raised four children — Pamela Wirth Barnhill, Eric Wirth, Brian Wirth, and Christopher Wirth — and built a life centered on family, faith, and love.

Gail was truly the glue that held the Wirth family together. She was a devoted wife, an extraordinary mother, a loving grandmother, and an exceptionally selfless person. She was enormously proud of her four children and was blessed to see each of them marry and create families of their own. Her 11 grandchildren brought her tremendous joy.

Gail also had a wonderful sense of humor. When a young Eric asked how she always knew when he was getting into trouble, she told him she had "eyes in the back of her head." He promptly searched through her hair looking for them.

Honesty was another value Gail carried throughout her life. As a child, her mother taught her always to tell the truth. During a family visit to the Petrified Forest, a ranger asked if anyone had taken any petrified wood. Gail immediately admitted that there was some in the family car, resulting in a memorable search of the vehicle. It became a favorite family story and a fitting example of the straightforward honesty that was simply part of who Gail was.

Cooking was one of the ways Gail showed her love. Her kitchen was where family gathered and traditions were created. Her lifelong passion eventually inspired her to write her own cookbook, preserving favorite recipes and memories for future generations.

Gail loved to travel and became an enthusiastic world traveler, enjoying adventures with her family from Europe to Hawaii and many places in between.

Her Roman Catholic faith was a constant throughout her life. Gail had a special devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and found strength and comfort through prayer and the Rosary.

That strength was especially evident after her diagnosis with ovarian cancer. Despite an initially devastating prognosis, Gail continued to live her life for more than eight additional years — precious time with Jim, her children, grandchildren, and the family she loved so deeply.

Always close by was Winston, her beloved dog and faithful companion. Gail adored and thoroughly spoiled Winston, whose companionship brought her tremendous happiness and comfort.

Gail is survived by her beloved husband, James "Jim" Wirth; her four children, Pamela Wirth Barnhill, Eric Wirth, Brian Wirth, and Christopher Wirth; their spouses; her 11 beloved grandchildren; and her extended family and friends.

For more than half a century, Gail was the glue that held the Wirth family together. Her legacy lives on in the family she created, the faith she carried, the traditions she passed down, and the extraordinary love she gave so freely.

She will be deeply missed and forever remembered by those blessed to call her wife, Mom, Grandma, family, and friend.

May she rest in eternal peace.

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