



Gail Arnetta Riley

MAR 15, 1956 - NOV 9, 2025



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FUNERAL HOME, MEMORIAL PARK & CREMATORY

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Gail Arnetta Riley

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Gail Arnetta Riley (1956 - 2025)

Gail Arnetta Riley, proud mother of Veronica; proud aunt to her legion of nieces, nephews, and anyone who enjoyed being loved by her; doting “Gamma” to her fur babies, Nylah Bear and Whitney; and not-so-humble care-ish-taker of some questionable green-ish succulents, transitioned to our ancestral home on Sunday, November 9, 2025.

Gail was born on March 15, 1956 in San Francisco, California to Roy Thomas Riley and Velma Katherine Riley (née Hunter) as the 4th of 5 children. She grew up around San Francisco’s Mission and Hunter’s Point. She attended Mission High School graduating a year early to then attend California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo.. While there, Gail chose to follow Jesus within Christianity and maintained that belief until her passing. In order to be closer to her family, she moved back to San Francisco to continue her education and career.

While back home in San Francisco where she completed her Associate’s degree in Computer Programming. Gail went on to work as a successful Program Analyst within healthcare for more than 25 years before prioritizing the care of her family towards the later part of her career prior to early retirement.

While not in her immediate plans, Gail will say that her mother magic’d a baby into her womb (science questionable) and she gave birth to her favorite daughter, Veronica. Her and Veronica argued whether this was default or true favoritism frequently. Their adventures and mis-adventures are known and loved by many; but both will always say one of their most precious blessings are each other.

During her life Gail acquired several hobbies, but nothing compared to her love of plants, gardening, spoiling her grandpups, teasing/laughing with her family and food. She loved to try new dishes, but was blessed with a hyper discerning daughter, so much of her food adventures



Obituary

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were done with friends and other family. She consistently said, “No one should ever be denied food” and “Food is how we commune. We ALL gotta eat!”. This went as far as her grand-pups. Gail risked consistent nagging from her daughter to feed “her babies” too many treats. She also enjoyed movies; an eclectic taste in music; card and board games (“fairly” will always be in question); telling stories, and making people laugh. She loved fiercely in all the ways she knew. Gail will be remembered for her dedication to her family, her feisty nature, protectiveness, and joy.

Gail is preceded in death by her loving parents Roy (1997) and Katherine (2006) Riley; sister, Trunetta Riley-Harris (1997); and her brothers, Wrecell James “Bay-Bay” Riley (2017) and Willie Doyle-Riley, Jr (2020). Gail is survived by her daughter, Veronica Kathryn Riley, her elder brother, Carlton E. Riley, and a host of nephews and nieces, grand-nephew and nieces, great-grand nephews and nieces, chosen family, and friends. She will be dearly missed but always loved.

Visitation and time for personal prayer and veneration will be held on Wednesday, November 19th from 12pm - 2pm at Skylawn Memorial Park. Her Homegoing Celebration will be held Friday, November 21st at Skylawn Memorial Park at 9:30am with burial to follow at 11am.



Tribute Wall

Gail Arnetta Riley

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The Chevallard Family sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Riley family.



November 18 at 6:41 PM



Valerie Garrett-Grier shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



Honoring a True Friend It started as a quick meeting on a quiet, isolated campus far away from anything either of us had previously known — the college campus of Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, CA. In that agriculturally focused community, two young souls met: Gail — mature, experienced, and confident — and Valerie — shy, fearful, but learning to step out in faith and become. Together, we forged a friendship that only we could truly understand — one filled with treasured moments, shared secrets, and unconditional love. One day, during a heated argument, Gail announced to me, “I don’t know why you’re so mad — you know I am your only friend in life!” That audacious statement broke the tension and sent us both into hysterical laughter. It became an unspoken apology and a phrase that would forever define our bond. From then on, we lovingly referred to each other as “the only friend you have in life.” A true friend is someone you can rely on — who treats you with respect, has your best interests at heart, and provides emotional safety and trust. True friends make you feel comfortable being yourself. They show empathy, support your personal growth, and celebrate your successes. Gail was all of that — and more. Marriages, children, careers, and life’s many changes never altered the depth of our friendship. I was fortunate to visit her, to sit by her side, and to share moments of quiet companionship. Before she transitioned I returned with a few of our college friends. We shared pictures and stories from our Cal Poly days. Her daughter and nieces listened with smiles and laughter as we brought to life the Gail they hadn’t known before. It was a beautiful, bittersweet day. Gail — thank you for everything. I expect you to hold the gate open when my time comes. 😊😄 I love you. Rest in eternal peace my only friend in life. ❤️ Rest in peace, my only friend in life. ❤️

November 14 at 5:50 PM



Media

Gail Arnetta Riley
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Valerie Garrett-Grier shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

November 14 at 5:50 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Gail by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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