



Rhonda Gail (Harrison) Byars

June 30, 1957 - January 6, 2025

Rhonda Gail (Harrison) Byars was born June 30, 1957, in Pekin, Illinois to Joseph and Maxine (Bay) Harrison. She grew up in St. Louis, MO, where she attended school and graduated from Pattonville High School class of 1975. Later in life, Rhonda attended Southwest Baptist University in Salem, MO, where she furthered her education and received her associate's degree.

Rhonda met her loving husband, James Byars while she was a waitress at Monte's restaurant in St. Louis, MO, and James was a truck driver. James would make his appearance at the restaurant near closing time to get a little extra food on his plate and a little extra attention from Rhonda. Rhonda married James on October 3, 1987, in Alley Spring, MO, and their family continued to grow as they were blessed with two sons: Shawn and Shane.

Rhonda was devoted to caring for her husband and children, and this continued through her final hours. She was hard-working and dedicated to providing for her family, spending many years of her life in the food and customer service industry. She held many jobs over the years that included Pizza Hut, McDonalds, Salem Refrigeration, Salem HeadStart and twenty-five years at Mobil Salem where she worked at the Taco Bell as manager and later became manager over the store. Many in the community came to know and love Rhonda during these years, she always had kind words and a big smile on her face.

Rhonda's proudest accomplishment and greatest joy was being a daughter, sister, mother and grandmother. She had her children's and grandchildren's pictures saved on her computer as a rotating screen saver and she would watch each picture on the slide. Rhonda also enjoyed watching movies at home and her favorite TV show was Little House on the Prairie. Rhonda was a woman of faith and had a giving heart.

Rhonda entered eternal rest on Monday, January 6, 2025. She is survived by her loving husband: James Byars of Salem, MO; sons: Shawn Byars and wife Kim of Salem, MO, and Shane Byars and wife Desiree of Marshfield, MO; step-son: Timmothy Byars of Imperial, MO; grandchildren: Chad Stemick and wife Laura of Omaha, NE, Avery Byars of Marshfield, MO, Xander Byars of Marshfield, MO, and Liam Byars of Marshfield, MO; step-grandson: Justin Haney of Salem, MO; sister: Berna Heard and husband Harold of Linn Creek, MO; brother: Dennis Harrison and wife Nancy of Bridgeton, MO; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and dear friends.

Preceding her in death were her parents: Joseph and Maxine (Bay) Harrison.

Rhonda was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She will be forever missed by those who knew her best.

Funeral Services for Rhonda Gail (Harrison) Byars were held Monday, January 13, 2025, in the Wilson Mortuary Salem Chapel with Benjamin Pursifull officiating. Song selections played were "Wind Beneath My Wings", "I'll Fly Away", "Daddy's Hands", "On The Wings Of A Dove" and "Holes In The Floor Of Heaven". Serving as Pallbearers were Joe Firestine, Jeff Brooks, Avery Byars, Chad Stemick, Shane Byars, Shawn Byars, Justin Haney, and Dennis Harrison. Honorary Pallbearers were Jason McElfresh, Herold Heard, and Brian Heard. Burial was in the Byars Family Cemetery, Montauk,

Missouri. Arrangements were under the direction of Wilson Mortuary of Salem, Missouri.

Online Condolences may be left at www.wilsonmortuary.com

Cemetery Details

Byars Family Cemetery

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 13. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Wilson Mortuary - Salem
1000 West Scenic Rivers Blvd.
Post Office Box 45
Salem, MO 65560
(573) 729-5555
<https://www.wilsonmortuary.com/>

Funeral Service

JAN 13. 2:00 PM (CT)

Wilson Mortuary - Salem
1000 West Scenic Rivers Blvd.
Post Office Box 45
Salem, MO 65560
(573) 729-5555
<https://www.wilsonmortuary.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Videos Album



Wilson Mortuary - January 14, 2025 at 03:23 PM



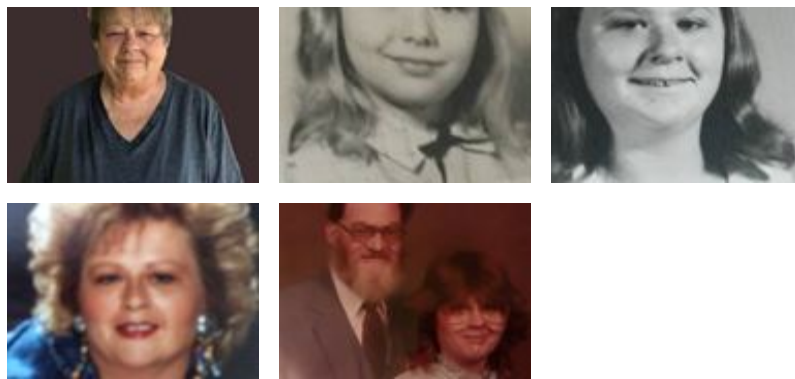
“ 1 file added to the album Videos Album



Wilson Mortuary - January 13, 2025 at 04:24 PM



“ 46 files added to the album Life Tributes



Wilson Mortuary - January 13, 2025 at 10:20 AM

TB

“ I have so my memories of my aunt. I remember one time going to Silver Dollar City. We meet her, Jim and the boys. Well, she bent over to tie Shane's shoe and fell over. She laughed so hard she had tears in her eyes. Mother like daughter. All of us was laughing so much. I will indeed miss that contagious laugh.

Tammy Baum - January 12, 2025 at 10:11 PM

RE

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I always loved Rhonda. She was fun and upbeat. Rhonda Chilton Bay East

Rhonda Chilton East - January 09, 2025 at 09:08 PM

DB

“ Rest in peace my sweet cousin, my condolences to her husband and family.

Debbra Baxter - January 09, 2025 at 12:45 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Rhonda Gail (Harrison) Byars.



January 08, 2025 at 05:13 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rhonda Gail (Harrison) Byars.

January 08, 2025 at 05:13 PM

LB

“ love Sandy and Sonny Bay purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Rhonda Gail (Harrison) Byars.



love Sandy and Sonny Bay - January 08, 2025 at 11:16 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rhonda Gail (Harrison) Byars.



January 08, 2025 at 10:51 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rhonda Gail (Harrison) Byars.

January 08, 2025 at 10:51 AM

DM

“ David Morris purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Rhonda Gail (Harrison) Byars.



David Morris - January 08, 2025 at 10:06 AM

DM

“ David Morris planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rhonda Gail (Harrison) Byars.

David Morris - January 08, 2025 at 10:06 AM