

MARY BETH G. GIGLER



Age 76, of Reserve Twp. passed away peacefully on March 12, 2025, with her husband by her side.

She was born September 2, 1948, to Elmer B. ("Dutch") and Elizabeth ("Butch") Gray in Aberdine, South Dakota, where her father was playing professional baseball. The family eventually settled in the South Hills of Pittsburgh, and Mary Beth graduated from Keystone Oaks High School in 1966. She earned a

bachelor's degree from Seton Hill College in Greensburg, where she met her best friend, Janice, and her future husband, Fred, and then went on to earn a master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh. Later in life, she taught theater classes and served on the alumni board at Seton Hill.

Mary Beth was an incredible force in everything she did, including battling Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA), a form of Frontotemporal dementia. The average life expectancy of a person with PPA is 5-7 years; After being diagnosed in 2006, Mary Beth lived for 19 more years with the support of her loving husband Fred.

Mary Beth was a beloved educator in English and drama and a talented director of both plays and musicals. She taught at Seton La Salle High School, Pittsburgh CAPA and Shady Side Academy as well as the Center for Theater Arts in Mt. Lebanon. She directed plays all over western Pennsylvania, including at South Park Theater and Point Park University's Pittsburgh Playhouse.

Her dedication to her career was only surpassed by her love for her family. She supported her children in any way she could in their wide-ranging activities and career paths. Mary Beth was overjoyed to marry Fred on November 27, 1998, and together they enjoyed travels around the world, including two Benedum Foundation-funded trips to Scotland's Edinburgh International Festival and the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her best friend, Janice Kelley Gigler. She is survived by her loving husband, Fred, and her sons Chip (Shelly) Fisher of Sarasota, Florida, Matthew (Darlene) Fisher of Sarasota, Florida, and Mark (Tara) Fisher of Kennedy Township, as well as daughters Kelley (Andrew) Young of Auburn, Alabama, and Suzie (Kyle) Vuksan of Greensburg. She is also survived by her three sisters, Elaine (the late Arthur) Gorr, Lisa (Robert) Tenney and Stasi Longo, as well as her 12 grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Friends received Saturday 6-8 p.m. and Sunday 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at **SHELLHAAS FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES, INC.**, 388 Center Avenue, West View. Mass of Christian Burial will be held Monday at 10 a.m. in St. Aloysius Church, St. Matthew Parish, Mt. Troy. Interment will follow in Ridgelawn Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the University of Pittsburgh Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, www.adrc.pitt.edu/volunteer/donate/.

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