



Gayle "Gram" Arlene Bell Cobb

October 7, 1939 - May 2, 2026

A blue jay named "Walter" came to carry Gayle "Gram" Arlene Bell Cobb, 86, to heaven on Saturday afternoon, May 2, 2026, from Avanti Senior Living Memory Care at Towne Lake in Houston, Texas.

Gayle was born on October 7, 1939, in Galveston, Texas, to Donald and Mathilda (Thiem) Bell. She graduated from Ball High School in 1957 and met her high school sweetheart, Walter Franklin Cobb, at First Lutheran Church in Galveston. They married there on March 8, 1958, and together welcomed two beloved daughters, Cynthia and Cheryl.

In November 1970, the family relocated from Houston, Texas, to Two Rivers, Wisconsin, for Walter's work. In 1985, Gayle and Walter moved again—this time to Katy, Texas—where they continued building a life centered on faith, family, and service.

Over the years, Gayle held many roles, including Air Force clerk, drapery seamstress, insurance clerk, homemaker, and caretaker. Her deep faith guided her throughout her life, and she was an active member of First Lutheran Church in Galveston, Calvary Lutheran Church in Two Rivers, and Living Word Lutheran Church in Katy. A gifted organist, pianist, and singer, she shared her musical talents with her church families for many years.

Family was the heart of Gayle's life. She loved being Walter's wife and took great joy in caring for him—preparing his breakfast according to his day-of-the-week schedule, ironing his handkerchiefs and shirts so he always looked sharp for work, and ensuring dinner was ready when he arrived home. She cherished being a mother, driving her daughters wherever they needed to go and making sure they learned to play the piano and sing.

Gayle also loved collecting decorated pitchers, fabric, yarn, and all kinds of craft items. She and one of her dear friends had a standing agreement that whoever had the most fabric at the end of their life would “win.” Pretty sure she won.

Becoming a grandmother was one of her greatest blessings. Daniel, her first grandchild, loved spending a month each summer in Texas with Gram and Pa, where they shared many adventures—especially trips to Galveston and Astros games. Gram treasured those drives to Galveston to visit Nonnie and Papa and to spend time at the beach.

Robert loved spending the night at their home, and Gram and Pa proudly attended his soccer and lacrosse games. She always looked forward to hearing the honk of his firetruck horn as he passed by the house in Katy or stopped in for a quick visit.

Emily also cherished her time with Gram and Pa—especially the butter sandwiches with olives, cheese, and lunch meat that Gram made with love. Gram or Pa often picked her up from school, and Emily adored their “conversations” on those rides home.

All three grandchildren knew they would never leave Gram and Pa's house without “something for the road” from the pantry. When great-grandchildren Hailey and Landon arrived, Gram delighted in seeing them in person, talking

with them on the phone, and visiting via FaceTime. She also adored her four “grand-doggies”—Charlie, Beau, Dixie, and Cupcake—happily accepting every kiss and lick they offered.

Gayle was preceded in death by her husband, Walter; her parents, Donald and Mathilda Bell; her sister, Donna Bekker; and her step–father- and mother-in-law, Phillip and Emily Roy.

She is survived by her dear daughters, Cynthia Cobb and Cheryl Lyng; her adored grandchildren, Daniel (Katie) Mecha, Robert (Taylor) Lyng, and Emily Lyng and her boyfriend, Dylan; and her great-grandchildren, Hailey and Landon. She is also survived by her brother-in-law, Gustave Bekker; numerous cousins and extended family; and many dear friends from Two Rivers and Mishicot, Wisconsin; Houston and Bryan, Texas; and Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Cobb family will receive guests at Dettling Funeral Home, 14094 Memorial Drive, Houston, Texas 77079, on Friday, June 12, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., with a Celebration of Life Service at 2:00 p.m. and a reception to follow. The service will be livestreamed on the Dettling Funeral Home YouTube page.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made in Gayle’s memory to the Alzheimer’s Association at act.alz.org.

The Cobb family is deeply grateful to the loving caregivers and staff at Avanti Senior Living at Towne Lake, as well as Aspire Home Hospice and other special caregivers, who became like family to Gayle. Your gentle presence, warm smiles, hugs, and tireless dedication made a world of difference in her journey and to her family.

Upcoming Events

Visitation

JUN 12. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home
14094 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-2121
david@dettlingfuneral.com

Celebration of Life

JUN 12. 2:00 PM (CT)

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