



## Mary Gabrielle Strojny

November 29, 1941 - March 3, 2026

Mary Gabrielle “Gay” Strojny: A Legacy of Friendship,  
Resilience, and Grace

On March 3, 2026, the world lost a woman whose life was a masterclass in how to face the wind with a steady smile. Mary Gabrielle (Aldon) Strojny—known affectionately to her many circles as Gay or Gabby—passed away peacefully, surrounded by the family that was her heart. She leaves behind a legacy defined not by the illness she fought, but by her quiet dignity, her humor, and the deep, authentic bonds she formed with everyone she met.

### A Lifetime of Connections

Born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland, Gay was the eldest child of the late Andrew and Mary

Aldon. She adored her siblings, the late Candy and Jimmy, and her “baby” brother, Tom. From

her earliest years, she possessed a gift for steady, lifelong friendship. She was a proud member

of “The Biddies”—a group of childhood friends from Baltimore who remained her heart’s home

for over 75 years. Whether on the softball field, the basketball court, or the bowling alley, Gay

was the teammate everyone wanted—not just for her athletic skill, but for her competitive

nature, easy laugh, and genuine spirit.

Her life took a romantic turn when she met a Notre Dame student named Dennis Joseph Strojny. They married shortly after his graduation, launching an adventure that took them from an Air Force base in Oklahoma to Sparta, New Jersey, where Denny became an American Airlines pilot. In Sparta, Gay and Denny raised their two daughters, Krissy and Heidi. Gay was the ultimate "involved" mother—coaching, playing softball and beach volleyball, and managing the law office of George Daggett for decades. She always found time for joy; there were sailing trips with dear friends, world travel, endless Notre Dame games, golf, bridge, and a social calendar that never had an empty square.

#### The Pinehurst Years

As empty nesters, Gay and Denny traded New Jersey winters for the greens of Pinehurst, North Carolina. For 15 years, life was a beautiful blur of golf, new friendships, community and the cherished "Camp Gabby & PopPop." Every summer, their grandchildren would descend upon Pinehurst for a week of undivided attention, and memories that will last lifetimes.

#### Love, Loss, and Resilience

Seeking to be closer to the center of their family, Gay and Denny eventually moved to Indian Land, SC, just south of Charlotte. Those years were filled with the sidelines and poolsides of her grandchildren's activities. It was during this chapter that Gay faced two of her hardest hurdles:

the passing of her beloved Denny and her beautiful mother, "Grandmary." Gay moved forward with the same resilience she had shown since childhood—leaning into her roles as a mother, grandmother, and a dear, reliable friend to so many.

#### A Forty-Year Fight

Diagnosed with breast cancer in 1986, Gabby refused to let a diagnosis define her. For four decades, she met every setback with a positive attitude that felt like a superpower. Friends and family alike looked to her as a "North Star" of courage. She was admired for her authenticity and her refusal to let a single day go to waste.

Two years ago, when the fight cost her her right leg, Gay moved to Pawleys Island to live with her daughter Heidi and son-in-law Keith, remaining just 20 minutes away from Krissy and Jason. These final two years were a profound blessing of togetherness—a time where she was surrounded by the very love and strength she had spent a lifetime sowing into others.

#### A Family Held Close

Gay was preceded in death by her husband, Denny; her parents; her sister, Candy; and her brother, Jimmy. Her memory will be carried forward by her "baby" brother, Tom; her daughters, Kristan Mary "Krissy" (Jason) Enoch and Heidi Beth (Keith) West; and her cherished grandchildren: Kyle (Allie) Enoch, Kendall (fiancé Connor Paul) Enoch, Kali Enoch, and Darby

West.

Her final hours were a reflection of the life she led: filled with her children, sons-in-law, and grandchildren. We laughed, shared memories, and left nothing unsaid. We find comfort in knowing that Gabby is finally back on her feet—dancing, golfing, and celebrating a hole-in-one, surrounded by the family and many dear friends who were waiting at the gates to welcome her home.

In keeping with Gay's vibrant spirit and love for a good gathering, a Celebration of Life will be held at 2:00 PM Saturday, May 2, 2026 at Goldfinch Funeral Home, Lithchfield/Pawleys Island Chapel. The family looks forward to a time of warm weather and ocean breezes to properly honor a woman who brought so much color into our lives. Details regarding the date and location will be shared with friends and family once finalized. Gabby felt deeply that support should stay close to home. If you would like to honor her memory, she would be touched if you directed any donations to the cancer foundation at your own local hospital, helping patients and families right in your community. Please reach out to your local hospital directly for information on how to give.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful Dreams* was purchased for the family of *Mary Gabrielle Strojny*.



April 26 at 05:54 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of *Mary Gabrielle Strojny*.

April 26 at 05:54 PM



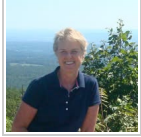
“ *I only knew Gay through Neighbor to Neighbor when I had the pleasure of driving her to a few appointments, but I was always amazed at her big smile and positive attitude. I was truly blessed to have known her for a short time.*

**Shirley Anderson** - April 09 at 09:36 AM



“ *So sorry to hear about Gay. 😞 She was such a fun and positive person. Many fun times around the bridge table...she usually put up with us newbies but wasn't afraid to keep us from making mistakes! And I knew she'd be okay if I bid without a 5 card Major 😊. Hope she's free of pain and socializing away. She'll be missed*

**Deb Fulcoly** - April 08 at 06:31 PM



“ *Gay, or Mary Gabrielle as I often called her, was one of the best friends and the strongest person I have ever known. I was blessed to live just a block away from her in Sparta, NJ. We had so much fun playing tennis, softball, volley ball, bridge and walking, walking and talking, talking every day. I was very upset when I heard about her cancer diagnosis, but even that brought us closer as I drove her to Memorial Sloan Kettering for treatments after the operation. After every appointment we would go to a great lunch and a New York City museum. I think we saw them all!*  
*I missed her when she moved, but we always kept in touch and now I miss her more. I'm so sorry for your families' loss, but happy you had such a wonderful person in your life.*

*Carolyn Clark*

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**Carolyn Clark** - April 02 at 03:19 PM

KA

“ *Our sincere sympathy for the loss of your loved one. May treasured memories and earnest prayer bring comfort for family and friends at this time.*  
*Psalm 94:19*

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**Kathryn** - March 22 at 04:11 PM

BS

“ *Gay is a treasured part of our lives and now, will live in our memories. We are the younger brother’s family (on Dennis’ side) and Gay was the beautiful dark haired lovely that songs could have been written about.*

*It was the 60’s and Gay could easily have been the muse of anyone crafting music at the time. She had such style and beauty. Luckily Dennis grabbed her early. And lucky for us all!*

*Gay had grace, etiquette, and a host of inherent qualities that set her apart and above the rest of us. She truly had class.*

*And now all we can have are memories of stories shared, times (although too few) with our families, and always the bonds of love which will endure for our lives.*

*Gay had such a joy of life and her spirit will forever be a part of our lives. We miss her.*

*Bernie and Mary Strojny*

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**bernie strojny** - March 10 at 10:00 PM

RK

“ *I truly appreciated the wonderfully written obituary as it clearly reflects Gay's life. Her kindness and focus on friendships were outstanding but what stood out the most was her strength and determination to combat the challenges of cancer. Personally, the love that Loretta and she had with the lifelong "biddies" taught me the true meaning of friendship. I still vividly remember the wedding of Denny and Gay as well as the visits to Sparta, Pinehurst and Indian Land. She is forever in my 89 year old memory and thereafter. Much love to all the family.*

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**Roland Knapp** - March 10 at 09:45 PM