



Patricia R. Gaines

January 30, 1940 - August 31, 2025

Patricia R. Gaines, 85, passed peacefully on Sunday, August 31, 2025, in Naples, FL, after an extended battle with dementia.

Born on January 30, 1940, in St. Louis, MO, Patti was the daughter of the late Howard A. Gass and Betty J. Dew. She spent her childhood years in Cottleville, MO, surrounded by family and lifelong friends.

There she met the love of her life, William R. “Sonny” Gaines, Jr. The two married and shared 62 wonderful years together. In 1966, they welcomed their daughter Stacy.

Patti had a lifelong love for horses that carried through every stage of her life. When Stacy was born, Patti made the selfless decision to give up her own horse to focus on being a devoted mother. Years later, when Stacy discovered the same passion for riding, Patti’s first words were, “Don’t buy a horse!” But when she learned the horse had already been bought, she couldn’t resist jumping back in the saddle herself.

Together, Patti and Stacy built a stable full of horses, including Patti’s beloved Angel. Side by side, they traveled across Missouri, showing and riding together, sharing not only ribbons and memories but also a bond strengthened by the animals they both cherished. For Patti, horses were more than a pastime—they were a blessing, a joy, and ultimately, a way to create treasured memories with Stacy that will live on forever.

In 1988, Bill and Patti discovered Ft. Myers Beach, Florida, and fell in love with the community and many dear friends. They enjoyed years of wintering

there before making Southwest Florida their permanent home in 2012. Patti especially loved sharing walks and card games with friends, filling her days with laughter, companionship, and joy.

Patti will be remembered for her deep devotion to family, her generous spirit, and the joy she found in simple, meaningful moments—whether on the back of a horse, walking the beach with Bill, or gathered with friends for cards and conversation.

She is survived by her loving husband, William R. “Sonny” Gaines, Jr., and her daughter Stacy, who is married to Scott Barnhart. She was preceded in death by her parents, Howard A. Gass and Betty J. Dew.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Wednesday, October 22, 2025 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. at the Copperleaf Country Club.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial contribution in Patti’s name be made to the Alzheimer's Support Network 1421 Pine Ridge Rd #100 Naples, FL 34109 or online at www.support.network

To sign her guest register or leave online condolences, please visit www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home, Family Owned and Operated Since 1978.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT **22**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Copperleaf Golf Clubhouse
23101 Copperleaf Blvd.
Estero, FL 34135

Tribute Wall

BC

“ Betty Cronin purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Patricia R. Gaines.



Betty Cronin - October 18, 2025 at 07:08 PM

JU

“ Patti was a dear friend of our family when we were growing up in St. Charles MO along with the Gaines family. There are so many wonderful memories spending good times together. Fly high Patti! May you rest in peace.



Judy Ulery-Wilkins

Judy Ulery-Wilkins - September 13, 2025 at 01:53 PM

CH

“ My sympathy to you, Bill & family. I know that Patti is now at peace. May that understanding & your memories give you peace as well.
Carol Hagen

Carol Hagen - September 13, 2025 at 11:19 AM

EF

“ You had many wonderful years together with Patti. So sorry for your loss.

Ed Foth - September 12, 2025 at 03:36 PM

DM

“ *Bill,
Bruce and I are so very sorry to learn of Patti's passing. We didn't know about her love of horses and her past experiences!
Our deepest sympathy goes out to you and your family. May you be comforted by all your memories, and the support of family and friends. May she rest in eternal peace.
Denise and Bruce Marsh*

Denise Marsh - September 12, 2025 at 01:50 PM

AL

“ *I have many fond memories of Mrs. Gaines at Copperleaf. She was always so kind and will be deeply missed.*

Anna Laabs - September 12, 2025 at 11:56 AM

KR

“ *Our deepest condolences, Stacy. Although we never met your Mom, the manner in which you spoke so fondly of her, made us realize how much she was loved by so many! Continued blessings and prayers to you, Scott, and your Dad. May your Mom Rest In Eternal Peace ❤️*

Love, Boyd & Kim

Kim Reese - September 10, 2025 at 06:19 PM