



## Gail Mountford Watkins

September 4, 1942 - January 5, 2023

Frankfort – Gail Mountford Watkins, Age 80, passed away Thursday, January 5, 2023, at home surrounded by loved ones as they held her hands. Services will be held at Harrod Brothers Funeral Home on Thursday, January 12 2023, at 2:00 p.m. with Rev. Anthony Purvis officiating. Visitation will be 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Gail was born in Morristown, New Jersey on September 4, 1942, to the late Franklin Earnest Mountford and Annie Laurie Simcox Mountford. Growing up in New Jersey, she found a love for nature with her time spent at the shore. She was a Girl Scout Curved Bar Award recipient, a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University, an Art teacher at Bryan Station Junior High School; an Artist for the KY Department of Education where she was promoted to the department's Educator Recognition Program. In retirement, she volunteered at the Salato Wildlife Education Center, earning the Volunteer of the Year Award multiple times. Eventually working at Salato where she instructed many public education programs and was very involved with the Native Plant Program. She had an immense love of nature, especially cats and greyhounds whom she rescued and adopted. She also volunteered for the LIFE House for Animals and the Retired Racing Greyhound Network. She was admired for her beautiful award-winning garden and extensive knowledge of native plants. She loved to be outside in her garden and we will forever remember her referring to "digging in the dirt" with a smile. She was an active community member that gave herself to the world without any expectation.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Lawrence Simcox Mountford in October 2022. She is survived by a son, Mark Thomas Watkins and a daughter, Laurie Lee Watkins; brother, Timothy Lee Mountford; sister-in-law, Anne Green Mountford (Lawrence); brother-in-law Danny Dale Watkins; beloved granddaughters, Elizabeth Ann Marie Watkins and Vanessa Nicole Brooke Watkins; and a niece, Sidney Mountford Doctor.

Serving as honorary pallbearers will be Daryl Thomas Snook, Diane Harrod Trautwein, Oreta O'Mara, John Hunt Davis, Mary Beth Davis, David Thomas Renwick, Elsworth Edward Davis Jr, and Sriram Balaji.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made to the American Cancer Society or the LIFE House for Animals.

Arrangements are under the direction of Harrod Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory.



# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 12. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Harrod Brothers Funeral Home  
312 Washington Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 227-4526  
hbfh@harrodbrothers.com  
<https://www.harrodbrothers.com>

## Service

JAN 12. 2:00 PM (ET)

Harrod Brothers Funeral Home  
312 Washington Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 227-4526  
hbfh@harrodbrothers.com  
<https://www.harrodbrothers.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Gail Mountford Watkins*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *I am so sorry to hear of Gail's passing. I know this is late, but I only knew of this a couple of days ago. I worked with Gail at Salato and always felt a bond with her. She was a wonderful person and my life is more complete for having known her. My deepest sympathies.*

*Jay Webb*



**J G Webb** - January 18, 2023 at 04:05 PM



*Just now finding out that Michelle has passed away I absolutely love and adore her and I am grateful to have had her in my life for the small amount of time that it was my thoughts and prayers are with Mark and Lori and the family she was an amazing person and that I am grateful to have known her you have my deepest sympathies*

**Pam Johnson** - January 22, 2023 at 12:27 PM



*Gail not michelle*

**Pam Johnson** - January 22, 2023 at 12:30 PM



“ *61 files added to the album LifeTributes*



**Harrod Brothers Funeral Home** - January 10, 2023 at 12:36 PM

TG

“ I had the privilege of working with Gail for many years. She was one of the most positive, kind and accomplished people I ever had the fortune to meet. Everything and everyone she touched was better for it. She was a gentle but strong force for good in this world. For me she is an example of a life well lived, one I can only hope to emulate.

Tacy Groves - January 10, 2023 at 05:05 AM

MW

Thank you for sharing your beautiful words. I agree completely. I am so grateful for the precious gift of having her as my mother and a grandmother/mom (G.G.) to my children.

Mark Watkins - January 10, 2023 at 05:15 PM

AB

When I worked with Gail, she earned the nickname “Wonder Woman,” caring for two small kids while their father was in law school in another city. Working full time, taking laundry to her mother-in-law’s at lunch time, picking up the kids from daycare, keeping up a house out in the country. And she did it all with grace.  
Ann Brandt

Ann Brandt - January 11, 2023 at 10:58 PM

MW

Thank you so much for sharing that with me Ann. She definitely lived her life with grace. Instilled in her at a young age by her grandmother Pauline and her mother Ann. She was such a gift to us all. Learning she had that nickname applies some real meaning to my memories of her in my childhood. We watched that show on one of the three channels we got.

Mark Watkins - January 12, 2023 at 09:26 PM

MW

“ 2 files added to the album GailMWatkins



Mark Watkins - January 09, 2023 at 04:39 PM

LM

“ Laurie and Mark, I’m so sorry for your loss. I thought a lot of Gail. My prayers are with you all!  
Linda Morris

Linda Morris - January 09, 2023 at 02:49 PM

MW

*Thank you Linda.*

**Mark Watkins** - January 09, 2023 at 04:44 PM

AC

*Mark I am so sorry you have my sincere sympathy 🙏❤️💕🌹*

**Amelia Cline** - January 09, 2023 at 06:34 PM

MW

*Thank you, Amelia!*

**Mark Watkins** - January 10, 2023 at 05:01 PM