



# Christine Mary Gest

JAN 30, 1947 - MAR 16, 2026



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# Christine Mary Gest

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**C**hristine Mary Gest, 79, passed away March 16, 2026.

Chris was born on January 30, 1947 in Plymouth, England. Since 1961, her family has owned and operated Bomar Trophy Shop that has served the Lakeland community for generations. For over 50 years, Chris shared her talents at the shop creating the perfect awards and gifts for her clients. Chris was a caregiver at heart, and loved to serve people. Whether it was a customer at the shop, a neighbor or friend in need, Chris was always ready to offer a helping hand to those needing assistance. She loved the Lord, always having daily devotionals on hand to share God's word.

Chris was preceded in death by her father, John C. Kells; mother, Mary S. Norman; step father, Robert H. Kendrick; brother, Allen S. Kells; sister, Kelley R. Freeman, and her beloved dog Nikki. She is survived by her sister, Lori Addleman; her nieces, nephews, and extended family and friends.

Visitation will be Saturday, March 28, 2026 from 10-11 am at Gentry Morrison Serenity Gardens Chapel, 3350 Mall Hill Drive, Lakeland, FL 33810. A Celebration of Life will follow at 11 am at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the SPCA <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/2026donations> or Moffitt Cancer Center <https://www.moffitt.org/give/>

The Celebration of Life will be livestreamed, and a link will be available here on the tribute page to view on March 28th.




# Events

**Christine Mary Gest**

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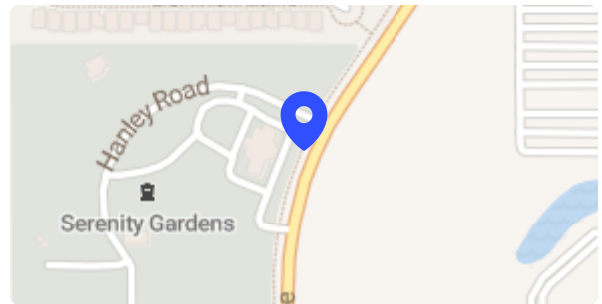
## Visitation

 **Saturday**, March 28, 2026

 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET

 **Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - Serenity Gardens Chapel**

3350 Mall Hill Drive, Lakeland FL 33810



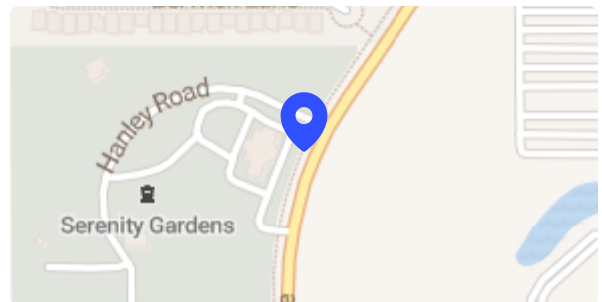
## Celebration of Life

 **Saturday**, March 28, 2026

 11:00 AM ET

 **Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - Serenity Gardens Chapel**

3350 Mall Hill Drive, Lakeland FL 33810





# Tribute Wall

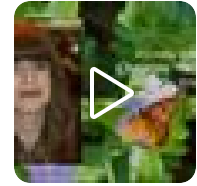
**Christine Mary Gest**

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**Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes** shared a **Video**.

March 27 at 9:17 AM



**Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes** shared a **Webcast Video**.

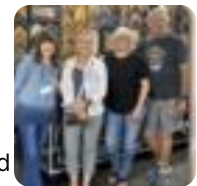
March 26 at 11:36 AM



**Rick Barchanowicz** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Chris wasn't just a friend, she was my wife Cindy's best friend and confidant for 50 years, a steady presence through every season of life. And there were many seasons. Chris was a light in every room she entered. Strong yet gentle, she carried herself with a quiet grace that put everyone at ease. Her kindness wasn't just a word—it was a way of life. She gave without expectation, always putting others before herself. In every act of kindness, every gentle word, she left a mark on all who knew her. Chris showed us how to love selflessly, and in that love, we will always remember her. Rest well with the angels above my sweet friend.

March 27 at 4:06 PM



**Cindy Barchanowicz** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

My dearest friend Chris, it's hard to put into words what losing you means to me. Fifty years of friendship is a lifetime of memories I will always hold close to my heart. I think of our days at Bomar, where our story began, and all the moments that followed. You stood by me through the best times and the hardest—especially when my mother passed. You promised my mom you'd watch out for me, and you kept that promise every single day, with a kindness and caring I will never forget. "I didn't always understand the path—I seldom ended up where I wanted to go, but almost always ended up where I needed to be." And so often, that place was right beside you. You had a beautiful way of making everyone feel loved. That was simply who you were—a truly kind and gentle soul. I am so grateful for you, for every memory, and for the love we shared. Say hi to my mom and your lovely family, sweet friend—until we meet again. And we will meet again. I love you always. Cindy

March 21 at 12:35 AM





## Tribute Wall

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**Soath Family** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Christine.

March 26 at 11:59 AM



**Soath Family** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Gest family.

March 26 at 11:59 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Crystal Cross Bouquet to the Gest family.

March 25 at 7:15 PM



**Pat Sissenstein** lit a candle in honor of Christine.

Her father used to live in Johnson City NY. (My hometown) I got to be phone friends with Chris when he moved back to FL) Friendship became more like being close like sisters for many years. Even with my younger sister Laurie who she referred to as her little tiger. Now they are both in heaven and finally get to meet. Chris was an inspiration and strong person who got me through some tough times too. I cannot believe she's gone. She was a great friend/sis to me miles and states away. I will miss you my dear Chris. I will now talk to You by prayers instead of my phone. Love you. Sleep well and cancer free now. Pat

March 25 at 2:27 PM



**Cathy Follis** posted:

Chris was the best friend anyone could have. Such a big heart to help others and a true giving friend. I will miss all her positive advice about life and God. She has to be one of the angels in heaven. I will miss you so much my friend. Cathy

March 25 at 8:43 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Christine Mary Gest**

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**Anonymous** sent a Crystal Cross Bouquet to the Gest family.



March 24 at 11:22 AM



**Anonymous** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Christine.



March 24 at 11:22 AM



**Mary Carden Millsaps** posted:

My fondest memory is every memory of her that I have. She was strong, kind, gentle, loving, selfless, giving and forgiving. She made anyone who met her, want to be a better human being. Her unwavering faith in the Lord is something to be emulated. She acknowledged, validated and respected everyone. To say that she was a kind soul just doesn't seem to be enough. She was the personification of everything that's good and right with the human condition . She was my sister in Christ and my best friend. For that, I am eternally grateful.

March 21 at 10:56 PM



**Richard Barchanowicz** posted:

Chris taught me that the family you choose are just as important as the family you are born with, and that a smile and a kind word cost absolutely nothing but can have such an enormous impact on the people in your life. This is something we could all use more of, and the world is dimmer without her light and grace. She will be sorely missed, yet her love, and the way she so effortlessly and selflessly gave of her time and attention will live on in everyone that was lucky enough to have known her. Rest well with the angels.

March 21 at 12:35 AM



# Media

**Christine Mary Gest**

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**Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes** shared a **Video**.

March 27 at 9:17 AM



**Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes** shared a **Webcast Video**.

March 26 at 11:36 AM





**Rick Barchanowicz** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

March 27 at 4:06 PM





Cindy Barchanowicz shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

March 26 at 11:03 PM





# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Christine by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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