



## Gail P. Michaud

May 16, 1937 - October 8, 2021

Exeter - Gail Marie Parks Michaud, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, died October 8, 2021 in Exeter, New Hampshire surrounded by family, ending a period of declining health. She was 84.

Gail was born May 16, 1937 to Wallace and Viola Parks in Caribou, Maine where she would live nearly all her life. She attended local schools and graduated from Caribou High School, a proud member of the class of 1954. She joined her sister in Rhode Island to work for Aetna Insurance and then returned to Caribou where she worked at Farm Credit. It was in Caribou that she met and married the love of her life, Robert Michaud, in 1958, and their three children joined the family between 1960 and 1965.

Gail created a comfortable home for all in a corner cape on Garden Circle, the site of many gatherings of family, friends, and neighbors. Her small castle welcomed her children and friends with the aromas of homemade date-filled cookies, pumpkin bread, and New England boiled dinners; the piercing whistle of the teakettle; and the steam rising from a mug of Red Rose. As the seventeenth child in a family of twenty-one, Gail thrived with people around her, and she was always known for her compassionate heart and listening ear. She put these qualities to use in numerous ministries at her second home, the Caribou United Baptist Church, where she served as a Sunday School and Vacation Bible School teacher, Pioneer Girls leader, choir member, and Young

Homemakers director. She also shared her love and interest with her numerous nieces, nephews, and siblings. Aunt Gail and Grammy Gail will be missed by them all.

Those of us who call her Mom, however, will feel her absence even more, something we have learned in the two decades since our father's passing. Together they gifted us with the legacy of education, one of their shared values. Early on they made a deal with one another: Dad would pay the college expenses for Jane and Steven, and Mom would return to work and pay for Janice's. To this end Mom opened Gail's Catering in the early 1980s, conducted numerous Tupperware parties as a distributor, and finished up as the accounts payable clerk at Aroostook Mental Health Center. She stopped working once the last college bill was paid and fully focused on supporting her mother-in-law and enjoying Dad's retirement.

Mom valiantly faced the loss of Dad in 2000, and for over twenty years she lived on her own with grace, independence, and courage. She filled her days penning letters to her eight grandchildren when each went off to college, tucking dollars into cards and heartening them with Bible verses, news from the County, Cross Lake memories, and inspirational quotes. Always the encourager, she loved scrolling through pictures of friends and family on her i-pad, liking and commenting on posts. In an effort to ward off memory loss, she religiously completed the daily jumble, Sudoku grids, and word search puzzles and watched Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy.

In later years her exuberance and sociability eased every transition as she moved to New Hampshire to be closer to her children. Within days of relocating to Langdon Place of Exeter, Mom knew dozens of residents. She said, "I will do all of the activities offered—trivia night, bingo, movie night—and go to all of the meals in the dining hall so that I can meet everyone."

Such a resilient, buoyant, faithful spirit will always motivate us any time we reach out to others, initiate a conversation with a stranger, walk to a podium for a public speaking engagement, or pause to pray for a friend, child, or acquaintance. Not a day will pass without sensing the absence of our most stalwart, steadfast prayer warrior and the memory of a woman who would drop everything when the caller i.d. indicated one of our names. We will hear the echo of a solid, bold alto when “My Jesus, I Love Thee” and “How Great Thou Art,” her favorite hymns, play quietly in our long-term memories, and in our most stressful moments we will cling to the dictum of her favorite verse: “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything through prayer and supplication let your requests be made known unto God.” And when the grief and pain overwhelm, we will immediately imagine a young woman with jet-black hair and a wide smile walking hand in hand with her redheaded Bobby in the presence of their Lord and Savior.

Surviving are one son and daughter-in-law, Steven R. and Christine Michaud of Durham; two daughters and sons-in-law, Jane Michaud Smith and Dennis Smith of North Hampton, N.H., and Janice Michaud Smith and Jeffrey Smith of Brunswick; eight grandchildren, Robert Dale Smith (Melody), Evan Bailey Smith (Jennifer), Morgan Smith Crume (Evan), Benjamin Joseph Michaud (Aubrey), Brigham Emil Michaud (Sarah), Beau Steven Robert Michaud (Alyssa), Victoria Catherine Smith, and Bradford Michaud Smith; thirteen great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and one sister, Lana Wilcox and her husband Boyd.

A funeral will be held at the Caribou United Baptist Church in Caribou, Maine at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 30, 2021. Memorial gifts can be given to the Caribou United Baptist Church Memorial Fund, 74 High Street, Caribou, Maine 04736.

# Cemetery Details

## Evergreen Cemetery

South Main Street  
Caribou, ME 04736

# Previous Events

## Service

OCT **30**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Caribou United Baptist Church  
74 High Street  
Caribou, ME 04736

# Tribute Wall



“ *Gail P. Michaud*

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ *Love and Prayers "The Fowler Families" purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Gail P. Michaud.*



**Love and Prayers "The Fowler Families"** - October 27, 2021 at 05:54 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Gail P. Michaud.*



October 25, 2021 at 08:48 AM



“ *Over 35 years ago when I first met Gail, it was a dark period in my life and she shared with me the verse from Romans 8:26, which reassured and sustains me even now that my Heavenly Father heard my prayers when they were very difficult to enunciate. May your memories of her comfort you until we meet her again.*

**Allen J. Voisine** - October 18, 2021 at 11:47 AM

MS

“ MHA Staff purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gail P. Michaud.



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**MHA Staff** - October 13, 2021 at 12:25 PM

WF

“ With Sympathy, Your Magline Family purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Gail P. Michaud.



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**With Sympathy, Your Magline Family** - October 12, 2021 at 02:45 PM

PH

“ Such a wonderful inspiration to so many. Even in the few years my family got to know her while I had the privilege to be considered her pastor, she was a great encouragement to our family. She had such a long-lasting impact on so many people who loved her immensely for her commitment to their lives. She will be missed here but only for a season as we will see her again. The hope she believed in has now come to reality and we rejoice in that for her. Our sympathies to the entire family, you have a great legacy from this lady and I am confident will continue to carry that legacy onward.

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**Pastor Troy Heald** - October 11, 2021 at 09:59 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gail P. Michaud.*



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October 09, 2021 at 05:00 PM



“ *Gail was one of a kind and I know she will be so missed by many. My family and the Michauds were neighbors in Caribou. She was a wonderful person. My condolences to Jane, Steve and Janice.*

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**Janine Jandreau Reeves** - October 09, 2021 at 08:02 AM



“ *I am so sorry to hear of Gail's passing. My time growing up as a neighbor was memorable. I babysat for Gail and Bob in the mirror image of our house. Their three children were not that much younger than me. My mother and Gail were good friends and neighbors. I had the pleasure to staying in touch with Gail long after leaving Maine and starting a family of my own. I appreciated and was in awe of her faith. I am heartened to know that she and Bob are with each other again.*

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**Michelle (Jandreau) Cahill** - October 09, 2021 at 01:52 AM

SG

*“ My memory was of your mother. I loved her the minute I met her at Exeter Hospital. I was the rep from Langdon Place. We laughed and giggled and we just enjoyed each other’s company. I am sad for you all but I know she is in heaven with your father. She missed him dearly. Jane, you were a child that every mother wants. Mom talked dearly of you all. I will miss her but she is smiling over all of you. Susan guertin RN past director of nursing of Langdon. She was my cheer leader too*



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**susan guertin** - October 08, 2021 at 10:04 PM



*“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Gail P. Michaud.*



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October 08, 2021 at 08:44 PM

PH

*“ You were so full of life, it’s hard to imagine that you’re gone! I loved playing Words with Friends with you. Rest In Peace Auntie! See you at that Great Reunion In The Air! Love always. Paula Jean*

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**Paula White Haddan** - October 08, 2021 at 08:21 PM

CT

*“ I cry when I read and reread these beautiful words. So true, every word remembering the Gail I loved and will see again in glory.*

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**Cynthia Tornquist** - October 08, 2021 at 08:08 PM

DL

“ My deepest condolences to Gail's dear family. She was a dear friend, one of my first close friends from the first days of the Caribou Choral Society. She was our treasurer for many years. I will keep her memory close to my heart forever. God bless you, Gail. May you rest in his peace.

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**Daniel Ladner** - October 08, 2021 at 07:16 PM

CH

“ I was a young Mother when I met Gail through Baptist womens events. My husband was not saved at that tim and Gail always sought me out with kind words and encouragement. She will be missed and it will be my pleasure to see her again when this journey is over.

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**Connie Heald** - October 08, 2021 at 07:16 PM

GW

“ Too many memories to try to pick just one. I will remember "Sale Gail" as forever smiling and bringing joy wherever she went. God bless her family at this time.

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**Gena Woods** - October 08, 2021 at 04:42 PM

LL

Jane, Dennis and family, my sincere sympathy in the loss of one so dear to your hearts. This written tribute conveys all the attributes one would want to achieve for themselves. Your Mom lit up a room with her smile and sparkling eyes. I wish I could have known her as you have. May those special memories bring much comfort. With loving prayers.

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**Laurel Lent** - October 08, 2021 at 07:13 PM

CO

*Gail Michaud is my sister's mother-in-law. I was only with her a couple of times through the years but what a delight it was, each time. She always expressed such interest in all that was happening in my life. And, usually times with her were during a family celebration of some kind, when many people were all around. Yet, she made me feel as though I was the only one in the room with her, as we talked. And, I know she never left our 'talk time' without remembering how she was going to pray for me. I am blessed to have spent those times with her! What a most precious gal/Gail she was even to me!*

*Thank you, Steven and Christine for sharing her with me! Blessings as you carry on, in a new way, without her here. But, you know now, she is having the time of her life!*

*Love you all,  
Colleen*

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**Colleen** - October 08, 2021 at 09:32 PM

JC

*I have so many memories of my aunt Gail! But I must say the best time is when we met at Cook's corner in Brunswick at the bookstore and had a cuppa tea together and shared our memories of Grampy and Grammy Parks and so much more!💕💕*

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**Judy Walton Campeau** - October 09, 2021 at 08:40 AM

AJ

*Sad to hear that my great neighbor has passed on, I will always have good memories of our lives as neighbors, she will always be in my mind as a GOOD person love to all the family.*

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**Aline Jandreau** - October 11, 2021 at 05:41 PM

RP

*So sad to read of Gail's passing. I knew her from Caribou, the Caribou Choral Society and our places at Cross Lake. She was truly a lady ! My sincere sympathy to her family. May you find peace in shared memories and the love and support of family and friends.*

*Ruth Pierson*

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**Ruth Pierson** - October 18, 2021 at 05:39 PM



*My Auntie Gail was a big part of my life, and we shared so many special times together. I look forward to seeing her again in our heavenly home.*

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**Karen Chapman** - October 18, 2021 at 08:47 PM

BB

*I am missing Grammy Gail, and the entire Michaud family tonight. Sending much love to all from Madawaska Lake*

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**Betty Buzzell Bouley** - April 10, 2025 at 09:09 PM