



Gloria Connell

October 19, 1936 - May 21, 2026

Gloria M. (Early) Connell, age 89, of Alton, Illinois, passed away peacefully on May 21, 2026, at 8:53 p.m.

Born on October 19, 1936, in Granite City, Illinois, Gloria was the daughter of William and Lenora Early.

Gloria was the devoted wife of 68 years to Richard E. Connell, who survives her. She was the loving mother of Patricia A. (Connell) Sosa and her husband Joe, Andrew K. Connell and his wife Kim, and Timothy P. Connell and his wife Pam.

Her greatest joy was her family, especially her cherished granddaughters Casey Hansen, Cari Hansen, and Chelsea (Connell) Bittrich and her husband Marc, along with her beloved great granddaughters Raylee and Braelynne Bittrich. Gloria also held a special fondness for the dogs her grandchildren brought into the family, finding comfort and companionship in their presence. A graduate of St. Joseph's School of Nursing in 1957, Gloria dedicated her life to caring for others. She worked as an office nurse and later in a long term care facility, where her compassion and steady presence touched countless lives. In her final days, she was embraced by the caring community at The Alton Rehab in Alton, Illinois, a place she deeply appreciated.

Gloria was preceded in death by her parents, William and Lenora Early, her sister Carole Orr , and her brother Patrick Early.

She will be remembered for her gentle spirit, her love of gardening, and the warmth she brought to every gathering.

At the family's request, visitation will be private, followed by cremation. Gent Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Additional information and online guestbook may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

VU

“ Dick and family..So sorry..RIP Gloria... so many fond memories. 3 years together in a dorm and working together, such fun, remember stopping by the telegraph to borrow a quarter from you to get a gallon of gas to go driving around and the 57 stick Chevy. fly high Gloria. ,.

Virginia Ulett - May 30 at 01:45 PM

JH

“ Dick and Family: Our sincere condolences k on the passing of Gloria . She was one of a few crusading liberals in our Constitutional Law classes. She held her own, although outnumbered. we shall miss her sprit. John Hopkins and Mary Albert Fritz .

John Hopkins - May 30 at 01:39 PM

MM

“ My sincere condolences to Dick, Andy & Kim, Chelsea and all of Gloria's family and close friends. I met Gloria when we worked at Eldercare Nursing Home. I respected and admired her and found her to always be such a hoot to be around. Praying for her peace and peace to her family.

Mary Ann Morris - May 26 at 08:18 PM

GR

“ Mr. Connell, You and your family have been a part of my life for as long back as I can remember. From babysitting for your kids , to working with not only Gloria (who taught me so very much as a student), but also having the absolute pleasure of working with Patti and Joe.

God bless you all and give you His peace. Forever in my heart,
Gwen Hatfield Riney ❤️

Gwendolyn Riney - May 24 at 05:51 PM

PM

“ Dick, I've known you and Gloria almost all my life. She was a great person and I know you will miss her terribly. My sympathy goes out to you and your family. We all have had some good times in the past and lots of great memories.

Peter McAdams

Peter C McAdams - May 24 at 10:29 AM

PT

“ My deepest sympathy to Dick , Casey and family. pat taulbee

Patricia M. Taulbee - May 23 at 07:57 AM

TJ

“ We always enjoyed it when Gloria & Dick would come to our parent's house for parties. She & Dick were such fun people at these family gatherings. Heartfelt thoughts & prayers for you & your family. May God bless you & yours. From Cousins Tammy & Pat Jordan & Carol & Bob Wooff.

Tammy Jordan - May 22 at 09:08 PM