



## Mary Gerstner

December 28, 1946 - January 25, 2022

Mary Carolyn Suther Gerstner, 75, Topeka, Kansas, died peacefully in her sleep Tuesday, January 25, 2022.

Mary was born in Frankfort, Kansas on December 28, 1946, to Friedrich “Fred” August Suther and Freda Ann Tegeler Suther. Mary attended Kansas schools in Frankfort, Blaine, and Flush; she was one of four graduating from Flush High School in 1965. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Resources from Friends University in 1994.

Mary was the youngest of seven children – Ralph Suther (deceased), Veronica “Vera” Strunk, Joseph “Joe” Suther, Gerald “Jerry” Suther, Sr., Elizabeth “Betty” Suther, and Sr. Eleanor Suther.

Mary and Alvin Harvey Gerstner were married on August 14, 1965, in Blaine, Kansas. He survives. She had four children, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild: Damian (Mary Grace) Gerstner, Konigstein im Taunus, Germany, and their children, William, Ian and Micah; Jerrod (Jennifer) Gerstner, St. Louis, MO, and their children, Kevin, Angela, and Abby; Heath Gerstner (deceased); and Jenea (Roger) Chartier, Holton, KS, and their children, Elaine (Tyler) Dillner, and their son, Fritz, and Dalton Chartier.

During her life, Mary was first a wife and mother, but held many other roles,

artist, bus driver, entrepreneur, musician, stage director, and seamstress are just a few, but we must mention two of them in detail.

For twelve years, Gerstner Drape & Specialties was Mary's small business dedicated to making high-quality drapes and window-coverings meeting her customers' needs. Her attention to detail not only made happy customers, but also set a standard of excellence that was a model for her family.

From 1987, Mary was a public servant to the State of Kansas, working in several different agencies until her retirement from the Kansas Department of Commerce in 2012. One of her favorite accomplishments was the creation of a prominent display of the Truman Capote "In Cold Blood" murders at the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

Personal arts were always a part of her life. Mary was a musician, accompanist and vocalist in every Catholic parish she lived in. She routinely donated time playing piano at the Stormont-Vail Cancer Center. She developed plays and pageants for schools and communities in Kansas. Every time she wanted to learn a new way of cooking, making her own yarn, soaps, candles, jewelry etc., she became a great student and made products that were a joy to her friends and family. She helped dozens of family members get their life stories into real books.

Visitation will be from 4 until 6 p.m. Monday, January 31, at Christ the King Catholic Church, where the rosary will be prayed at 6 p.m. p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Tuesday, February 1, at the Church. Inurnment will follow in Mount Calvary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Midland Care Hospice, sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Condolences may be sent online to [www.kevinbrennanfamily.com](http://www.kevinbrennanfamily.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd  
Topeka, KS 66606

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 31. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Christ the King Catholic Church  
5973 SW 25th Street  
Topeka, KS 66614

## Rosary

JAN 31. 6:00 PM (CT)

Christ the King Catholic Church  
5973 SW 25th Street  
Topeka, KS 66614

## Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 1. 10:00 AM (CT)

Christ the King Catholic Church  
5973 SW 25th Street  
Topeka, KS 66614



# Tribute Wall



“ *Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Gerstner*



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**Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home** - January 28, 2022 at 10:34 AM



“ *Mary Gerstner*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *We were so sorry to hear of Mary's passing, wish we had heard sooner. She was a wonderful team member with our volunteer services department that spent many hours playing for our patients at the Cancer Center. She always kept us informed even when she wasn't feeling well enough to come in regularly. I had been trying to get in touch with her over the past month and just now learned she is no longer with us. Wishing you and the family peace in knowing what an extraordinary lady she was and how her memory will live on with us as I know it will with you.*

*Jeanne Billings  
Volunteer Services Department, Stormont Vail Health*

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**Jeanne Billings** - March 08, 2022 at 02:37 PM

JC

*Thanks Jeanne*

Jenea Chartier - March 08, 2022 at 11:03 PM

CR

“ Alvin, we are so very sorry for your loss. Mary & I were class mates for several years in Blaine. I see that she led a very full & rewarding life. May God fill you with Peace as you reflect on your precious memories of Mary. Cheryl Horgan Randel

Cheryl Horgan Randel - January 30, 2022 at 04:33 PM

AL

*Thanks*

alvin - January 30, 2022 at 08:58 PM

RH

“ Enjoyed working with Mary on the environmental committee at CTK. She was very talented. May you Rest In Peace Mary. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

*Rita F. Hulsing*

Rita F Hulsing - January 29, 2022 at 06:43 PM

NM

“ I want to express my sincere sympathy to Alvin and the family. I am a member of Christ the King parish in Topeka and enjoyed her musical talent as an organist at church and other events and also for the wonderful creations she made for our church festivals.

Nila Miller - January 28, 2022 at 02:13 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Gerstner.*



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January 27, 2022 at 02:21 PM



“ *I worked with Mary for a number of years at the KS Department of Commerce and she was a wonderful person, She was always so very nice and patient but very, very smart as well.*

*She was a great lady who will be missed. My deepest condolences to her family and loved ones.*

*Steve Kelly*

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**Steve Kelly** - January 27, 2022 at 01:46 PM



“ *Kathleen R. purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Mary Gerstner.*



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**Kathleen R.** - January 27, 2022 at 12:16 PM



“ *Neil and Rita PUNCHES purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mary Gerstner.*



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**Neil and Rita PUNCHES** - January 27, 2022 at 11:57 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Mary Gerstner.



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January 26, 2022 at 11:22 PM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Mary Gerstner.



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January 26, 2022 at 10:47 PM