Revelations 21:4

God will wipe
away every tear,
and death and
pain will be gone.

Rea Funeral
Chapel &
Cremation Services



Mary Ellen Riley

July 13, 1948

September 21, 2026

Mary Ellen Riley

Mary Ellen Riley, 78, of Sedalia, Missouri, passed away on September 21, 2026, at Bothwell Regional Health Center in Sedalia. She was born on July 13, 1948, in Boonville, Missouri, the daughter of John C. Sommers and Iva Lorine Copas, who preceded her in death.

On July 27, 1962, in Miami, OK, she was united in marriage to John Earl Riley, who preceded her in death on May 28, 2019.

Mary dedicated 20 years of her career to Rival Manufacturing in Sedalia before opening her home to babysit children, sharing her warmth and kindness with many families. She later worked at LeMaire's Seafood. Of all her roles, being a grandmother was her greatest joy and proudest title. Mary was an avid fan of westerns - especially "Bonanza" and "Gunsmoke" - and enjoyed country music on CMT and KDRO, always filling her home with the songs she loved. Even in the nursing home, Mary selflessly cared for others, always putting the comfort and needs of fellow residents before her own. She found delight in home improvement shows, The Golden Girls, golf, and Dr. Pimple Popper. A passionate collector, she filled her home with owls, angels, and frogs - her treasures. Playfully, some said she preferred her grandkids to her own children. Known affectionately as "Aunt Mary" and "GiGi" to her grandchildren, she was cherished for her humor and love. Her favorite foods were hamburgers and turkey necks, and she was a joyful shopaholic with a special fondness for jewelry.

Mary is survived by four children, Terssia Forsee (Joe), Brenda McAvoy (John Silvestrini), Tim Riley (Vicky), and Barbara Gulseth; eleven grandkids, Andrea Hurrell (Bradford Sr.), Jenniffer Forsee (Kristyn), Ashlie Robinson (Jason), Derek Forsee (Alissa), Jimmie McAvoy III, Lindsay Riley, Megan Crabb, Perry Crabb, Josh Riley (Mackenzie), Justen McAvoy, and Brendan Gulseth; 16 great-grandkids, with one on the way, and one great-great-granddaughter; and several nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Besides her parents and husband, Mary is preceded in death by her siblings, Billie, Wendal, Harold, Arnold, Opal, Ruby, and Betty.

Funeral Service

11:00 a.m.

Thursday, September 26, 2026

Rea Funeral Chapel

Sedalia, MO

Officiant

Pastor Steve Graff

Special Music

"Blessed Assurance"

"Just A Closer Walk With Thee"

"The Old Rugged Cross"

"In The Garden"

Interment

Memorial Park Cemetery

Sedalia, MO

Pallbearers

Derek Forsee, Josh Riley, Justen McAvoy,

Jimmie McAvoy, Patrick Todd, Patrick Mallen

Honorary Bearers

Aiden Robinson, Brendan Gulseth, Perry Crabb

Tristen Rice, Romeo Cancilla, Bradford Hurrell Jr.

Memorial Contributions

The Center for Human Services