



## Guendilen "Gwen" Elizabeth Vawter

December 21, 1941 - October 11, 2024

Guendilen "Gwen" Elizabeth (Clarke) Vawter, 82, passed away Friday, October 11, 2024, in Dallas, TX. She was born December 21, 1941, in San Diego, CA, to Frank Peterson and Jean Isles. Gwen married Jerry Vawter on May 10, 1963, in Escondido, CA. She was a graduate of San Diego State University, earning a degree in elementary and special education.

Gwen was instrumental in helping Jerry operate Jerry Vawter Quarter Horses. She and Jerry were inducted into the American Quarter Horse Association Hall of Fame and were lifetime members of The American Quarter Horse Association. Gwen was also a member of St. Thomas Catholic Church.

Gwen is survived by her son, Greg Vawter of Denton, TX; daughter Jamie Dunning of Frisco, TX; sister, Pam Bruner of Pilot Point, TX; grandsons Tyler, Hayden, and Nathan Dunning of Frisco, TX and Robby Vawter of Shreveport, LA; and granddaughter, Alexis Vawter of Denton, TX.

Gwen was preceded in death by her husband Jerry; her parents, Tom and Jean; granddaughter Valeriana Rubina Vawter; and son-in-law, Dale Dunning.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, October 26, 2024, at 10:00Am at Slay Memorial Chapel in Aubrey, TX with inurnment to follow at Belew Cemetery.

Online condolences may be shared at [www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com](http://www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com)

Arrangements are under the direction of Terri Slay and Slay Memorial Funeral Center.

# Cemetery Details

## Belew Cemetery

9500 Belew Road  
Aubrey, TX 76227

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

OCT **26**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Slay Memorial Chapel of Aubrey  
400 South Highway 377  
Aubrey, TX 76227  
info@slaymemorial.com  
<http://www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com>

## Inurnment

OCT **26** (CT)

Belew Cemetery  
9500 Belew Road  
Aubrey, TX 76227

# Tribute Wall

BC

“ My heart is very heavy to hear of Gwen's passing. She was a great lady, and a shining light to me as a friend. I will and do miss our talks. Always sweet, kind and uplifting. My prayers for her family and all who loved this beautiful lady.....and she was....both inside and out....

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**Bennie Lynn Clawson** - October 25, 2024 at 12:04 PM

KS

“ So saddened by this news. My deepest condolences to her dear family and friends. Gwen and I shared a special friendship, one I deeply cherish. I will miss our texts and messages. She always shared her wisdom and support. My earliest years breeding horses, I would sit with her and Jerry watching classes and taking notes. Jerry taught me correct structure and conformation and Gwen taught me about beauty and eye appeal. After Jerry passed, she sent me Jerry's drawings with the sweetest note of encouragement. Gwen was a beautiful lady inside and out, a dear friend and amazing horse woman. She loved her family immensely and Jerry was her heart. I will miss our talks, messages and her wisdom. God Bless you Gwen... I know Jerry was there waiting for you. What a glorious reunion. 🙏❤️🙏

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**Kathy Snodgrass** - October 18, 2024 at 04:48 PM

CP

“Gwen was a great lady. I have been her hairstylist for years. She was a good friend. Most of our clients become family. And she certainly was one. I have missed her since December of last year. But the thought of not texting her to check on her is very sad. Will always love her.

Carolyn Pannell

Denton Tx 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏

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Carolyn Pannell - October 15, 2024 at 11:46 PM

SW

“I remember going to Gwen and Jerry’s ranch several times, over the years, to look at mares and foals. They were always so welcoming and always took the time to teach me the correct confirmation of a halter horse. They were both tremendous people and were true pioneers in the halter horse industry. I am truly blessed to have known them.

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Scott Williams - October 15, 2024 at 12:05 PM

NM

“Gwen was one of the sweetest souls I have ever known. I first meet Gwen and Jerry in the late 70's showing horses in Southern California and grew up in awe of their kindness and knowledge of the Quarter Horse industry. I showed in many classes with Jamie and we always left the ring with a smile and a giggle. Pam was one of our trainers and to this day, holds a very special place in my heart. Pam and Gwen were the first people I visited after I moved to Texas 12 years ago and it was like a family reunion, recalling memories of our times together! My thoughts and prayers for comfort and peace to the Vawter Family. Gwen and Jerry are rejoicing in Heaven in the presence of our Lord.

*Nina Mandala*

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**Nina Mandala** - October 15, 2024 at 09:59 AM

CP

“ I was at our place in Cozumel the morning of the 11th when I received Greg’s text. Gwen always talked about coming here for a visit but unfortunately never made it. It’s difficult (for me anyway) to talk about Gwen without including Jerry as they were, as I called them, the “dynamic duo.” My first 4 AQHA World Championship wins came from stock at Vawter Ranch. This is where I met Gwen & Jerry 25 years ago and when our friendship began. Over the years, we became extremely close and I loved them dearly. I always felt as though they were like my “second parents” and I often told them so and Gwen would call me her “second son.” Both were such wise and gifted human beings who taught me so much and I treasure their friendship enormously. Their achievements and reputation as outstanding horsemen speak for themselves. It will be different not waking up to an early morning text from her and knowing she’s no longer a phone call away. She had been struggling for a while, but still, upon reading Greg’s text that morning, I went numb. But notwithstanding the lump in my throat, my heart was full knowing Gwen is now reunited with her beloved Jerry as well as her Savior, Jesus Christ. She loved the Lord and we shared a common bond in that way.

From my heart, I’m so grateful for the opportunity to have had both Gwen and Jerry share a part of my life. So until we see each other again ... “go rest high on that mountain.” My very best to Greg and Jamie. Your Mother talked about you all the time. You were her pride and joy and, as you know, she loved you both very much. How blessed you are to have had such a wonderful Mother and Father.

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**Craig Parmley** - October 15, 2024 at 06:48 AM

DS

“ Such a brief time to know you and in such a unique way, but you will be missed greatly even if our acquaintance was brief. As always we said God's grace and peace to you!

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**Denice M. Salzman** - October 14, 2024 at 11:39 PM

CB

“ Love you Gwen,,miss our long walks when we lived in Texas

Carol Brown - October 14, 2024 at 06:26 PM

MR

“ Where do I start! I first met Gwen and Jerry while showing horses in the early 60's. We became fast friends and eventually they stood up for my marriage to Elwin Rainwater in Las Vegas during of course a show. I lived them both dearly and have miss Jerry for a very long time and now I am going to miss Gwen. But I will never forget the memories of our times together. Love to Greg and Jamie always.

Meredith Rainwater - October 14, 2024 at 03:44 PM

JS

I've known Gwen since the late 1950's, and she was one of the sweetest gals I've ever known. I've known Jerry since we were kids growing up on the same street, and sharing comic books! Gwen and I reconnected on FB, and I have so enjoyed our chats and comments over the years. I'm so privileged to have known Gwen, and will love her for always. RIP, sweet Gwen.

Joan Polley Sanders - October 17, 2024 at 12:51 PM

SW

I met Gwen in the first grade in Ramona Ca. We have stayed in touch over all these years. We shared many good times along with special times She at my wedding and I at hers. The conversations we had about meeting that right guy, a trainer named Jerry Vawter at the Log Cabin Ranch in Escondido who was helping her with her riding skills.. He didn't know he was in love but Gwen did. What a wonderful life. They worked hard accomplished so much raised a beautiful family. The American dream. Jerry and Gwen are together again.

Sharon Rollins Warnock - October 20, 2024 at 12:26 PM