She grew up in Gallup, New Mexico. Ever the lover of learning, she graduated valedictorian of her high school. She was a ballerina for over 50 years and danced in Utah, New York and traveled with a dance company.

Deciding she did not want to pursue that permanently, she got her Bachelor's degree from the University of New Mexico. While working on her Master's, she met the love of her life and best friend, husband, Harlan. They married in 1964, and raised their two children, Avery and Monica in Phoenix.

She lovingly welcomed son-in-law, Stig, to the family and was overjoyed when her grand-children Erlend and Emilia were born. Gayla loved playing with her dogs, gardening, and reading. She traveled the world with her husband and often remarked at how lucky she was.

Given how much she loved animals, donations can be made to

Home Fur Good Animal Rescue,

10220 N. 32nd St., Phoenix, AZ 85028.

She will be forever loved

and forever missed.