



Shirley H. Gordon

March 19, 2026

Shirley H. Gordon, 97, of Allentown, passed away surrounded by her loving family on March 19, 2026 in her home. She was the wife of Douglas M. Gordon. They were married for 65 years. Shirley had worked as an executive admin at the former Allentown Osteopathic Hospital in Allentown, now known as St. Luke's Hospital. Born in Detroit, Michigan, she was the daughter of the late Jame R. Hamilton and the late Ethel (Harvey) Geske. She was a graduate of Royal Oak High School in Royal Oak, Michigan and attended the University of Michigan.

Shirley was a dedicated supporter of the Girl Scouts of America and an active troop leader for many years. She had a great appreciation for the arts and volunteered at the Allentown Art Museum. After retiring from AOH/ St. Lukes she supported and coordinated the annual Alumni gathering for other retirees. Shirley was an avid bridge player, sports fan, and an adventurous traveler. Survivors: Husband, Daughters: Kathleen Barron of (Tamaqua, PA) and Elizabeth Gordon of (Durango, CO), Granddaughter Kenzie of (Durango, CO) and a Sister: Dorothea Keenan of (Daniel Island, SC), Nephew David, and Nieces Julie and Melissa and their families.

This poem was on her desk at her passing:

When I Must Leave You

When I must leave you for a little while,
Please do not grieve and shed wild tears
And hug your sorrow to you through the years,
But start out bravely with a gallant smile;
And for my sake and in my name
Live on and do all things the same,
Feed not your loneliness on empty days,
But fill each waking hour in useful ways,
Reach out your hand in comfort and cheer
And I in turn will comfort you and hold you near;
And never, never be afraid to die,
For I am waiting for you in the sky!
By Helen Steiner Rice

A celebration of life and reception will be held June 1, 2026 at 10:00 am, with memorial service at 11:00 am at J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home, 1601 Hamilton St. in Allentown.

In lieu of flowers, feel free to donate in her memory to a charity of your choice or to help people in need in your own community.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

J S Burkholder Funeral Home Inc
1601 W Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18102
(610) 433-5161
info@jsburkholder.com
<https://jsburkholder.com>

Memorial Service

JUN 1. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

J S Burkholder Funeral Home Inc
1601 W Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18102
(610) 433-5161
info@jsburkholder.com
<https://jsburkholder.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Shirley H. Gordon.*



May 28 at 02:57 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Shirley H. Gordon.

May 28 at 02:57 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Shirley H. Gordon.

May 13 at 06:39 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Shirley H. Gordon.*



May 13 at 06:39 PM

DB

“ I worked with Shirley back in 1994 at AOMC. She was not just someone who trained me, but was someone who truly invested their time, patience, and trust in me. She didn't just teach me how to do the job, she showed me how to carry it with care and dedication. I'll always be grateful for the guidance she gave me and the example she set. Shirley was truly a wonderful person!
Debbie (Lutz) Bailey

Debbie Bailey - March 30 at 01:23 PM