



## Mary Katherine Runner

March 27, 1948 - February 14, 2024

Mary Katherine (Burgess) Runner, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, passed from this life on February 14, 2024, in Visalia, California, at the age of 75. Born on March 27, 1948, in Santa Cruz, Mary Kay was raised in Fresno and graduated from McLane High School in 1966 before moving to Visalia in 1980.

She is survived by her devoted husband, John Runner, and three loving children, daughter Kari (Doug) Morgan, and sons Joe (Jaime) Runner and Gabe (Nichol) Runner. She has eight grandchildren, Elise, Chandler (Kayleese), Caeden and Ava Morgan, Quinn and Skye Runner, and Kellen and Evan Runner.

Mary Kay also leaves behind her sister, Margaret Becker as well as a host of friends who will forever treasure her memory. She touched the lives of many with her warmth, kindness, and unwavering faith.

Mary Kay's life was a testament to love and service. As a homemaker, she created a nurturing environment where her family thrived. Her dedication extended beyond her home, as she served as the founder and administrator for Kinderstartin' Preschool and supported her husband in his role as the founding pastor of The Fortress of Truth in Visalia.

Her love for God was evident in everything she did, and she found her

greatest joy in nurturing her relationship with Him and her family. Mary Kay's passion for cooking brought people together, and she was known for her delicious meals and warm hospitality. Her fondness for decorating and crafting with her grandchildren was truly heartwarming. Her memory lives on through the joy she brought to those special moments spent together. She poured her love and creativity into each project, leaving behind not just tangible creations, but also a legacy of warmth, laughter, and connection that will continue to inspire her grandchildren for years to come.

Mary Kay Runner's legacy of love, faith, and generosity will continue to inspire all who were fortunate enough to know her. Though she may be gone from our sight, her spirit will live on in the hearts of those who loved her dearly.

A graveside ceremony will be held at Visalia District Cemetery on Friday, February 23rd, 2024 at 12:00 pm. A celebration of Mary Kay's life at The Fortress of Truth church in Visalia (4500 W Caldwell) will follow at 2:00 pm. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Services have been entrusted to Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel. Memorial Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto [www.salseranddillard.com](http://www.salseranddillard.com).

# Previous Events

## Graveside

FEB **23**. 12:00 PM (PT)

Visalia District Cemetery  
1300 W Goshen Ave  
Visalia, CA 93291

# Tribute Wall



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mary Katherine Runner.* ”



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February 21, 2024 at 07:05 PM