



Katie Elizabeth Gipson Cooley

October 3, 1989 - April 17, 2026

Katie Elizabeth Gipson Cooley, 36, of Searcy, Arkansas departed this life on Friday, April 17, 2026 at her home surrounded by her loved ones.

She was born October 3, 1989 in Fort Smith, Arkansas to Manuel and Malinda Gipson.

Katie was a vibrant soul whose love knew no bounds, especially for her daughter, who was the center of her world. She embraced life fully, finding joy in painting, riding horses, traveling, and pushing herself through sport weightlifting and time spent in the gym. A gifted massage therapist, Katie helped countless people through her healing touch, always striving to ease pain and bring comfort to others. She was deeply committed to her craft, constantly seeking new education and opportunities to expand her knowledge so she could better serve those in her care. Known for her selfless spirit, Katie gave endlessly to others, always ready to lend a hand or a kind word. She loved deeply and wholeheartedly, leaving a lasting impact on everyone fortunate enough to know her. Katie faced her challenges with remarkable strength and resilience, never losing her fighting spirit. Her greatest joy remained her family and friends, who will forever cherish her memory.

Katie is survived by her beloved daughter, Emberlyn Cooley, her parents, Manuel and Malinda Gipson, her brother, Jason McClellan, and her grandmother, Helen Gipson.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Sarah Lacey Gipson, her maternal grandparents, and her paternal grandfather.

Memorial services will be conducted on Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at Kennect City Church in Kensett, Arkansas. Visitation will be held prior to services beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Arrangements are entrusted to Powell Funeral Home of Searcy.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

APR 21. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Kennect City Church
1119 W Wilbur D Mills Ave
Kensett, AR 72082

Memorial Service

APR 21. 2:00 PM (CT)

Kennect City Church
1119 W Wilbur D Mills Ave
Kensett, AR 72082

Tribute Wall

DS

“ We remember Katie as a child. Beautiful and sweet like her mother. We were saddened to hear of her passing. Melinda & Manual, we are praying for you. May Jesus hold you both close in His big gentle hands until you see her again.
In Jesus love, Billy & Dana Sawitsky

Dana Sawitsky - April 26 at 12:18 PM

CW

“ Cheryll (Sturdivant) Walker purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Katie Elizabeth Gipson Cooley.



Cheryll (Sturdivant) Walker - April 22 at 09:01 PM

CW

“ Cheryll (Sturdivant) Walker planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Katie Elizabeth Gipson Cooley.

Cheryll (Sturdivant) Walker - April 22 at 09:01 PM

RM

“ Praying for your family. Manuel it has been many years since I've seen you but I enjoy many memories from our youth. May all your memories of your beautiful and strong daughter bless and comfort you and Malinda.
Randy Mead

Randy Mead - April 21 at 10:52 AM

TF

“ The Glenn Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Katie Elizabeth Gipson Cooley.



The Glenn Family - April 20 at 11:35 PM

VM

“ I remember having Katie in Sunday school class at Bethel Baptist Church when she was in 5th or 6th grade. She was always a joy in class. Prayers for all the family. 🙏

Vicki Moseley - April 20 at 11:01 PM

WF

“ Wes & Wyatt Curbo Familys planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Katie Elizabeth Gipson Cooley.

Wes & Wyatt Curbo Familys - April 20 at 07:25 PM

WF

“ Wes & Wyatt Curbo Familys purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Katie Elizabeth Gipson Cooley.



Wes & Wyatt Curbo Familys - April 20 at 07:25 PM

YT

“ Your Uncle Willie, & Aunts Dixie, Tilda purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Katie Elizabeth Gipson Cooley.



Your Uncle Willie, & Aunts Dixie, Tilda - April 20 at 04:54 PM

JN

“ I worked with Katie when she was 16 at Tonya's Consignment. I so loved this young lady!! Even at her young age she was so very inspiring. I loved working with her. She made the day so much fun. She also painted my daughter a pic of her Pug. We treasure it . I will never, never forget my time with KatieDid. I love you Katie!!!!
Johnna Norman

Johnna Norman - April 20 at 03:37 PM

VP

I first met Katie at the chiropractor in Searcy where she was working as a massage therapist. She was so good and she didn't know her craft very well. She worked with me trying to help me feel better. I got to know her better after that and realized at that time how much she loved the Lord. Our spirits just united at that time. I didn't know she was dealing with cancer. I would still get a massage when she moved into her own place from time to time such a beautiful daughter. I know she loved dearly. I won't miss her so but I know I will see her again.

valerie Peckham - April 21 at 07:43 AM

VP

She did know her craft very well.

valerie Peckham - April 21 at 07:44 AM

VP

Will miss her.

valerie Peckham - April 21 at 07:44 AM

DR

“ Dixie R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Katie Elizabeth Gipson Cooley.

Dixie R. - April 20 at 03:29 PM

DR

“ I had the honor of meeting Katie totally by chance in Hot Springs, AR. Katie was a bright and shining soul in this world! My prayers for the Family. May your memories sustain you until you meet again 🙏

Dixie Reichard
Madison Heights, VA

Dixie Reichard - April 20 at 03:16 PM

SF

“ SRS Distribution Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Katie Elizabeth Gipson Cooley.



SRS Distribution Family - April 20 at 02:14 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Katie Elizabeth Gipson Cooley.

April 20 at 02:00 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Katie Elizabeth Gipson Cooley.*



April 20 at 02:00 PM



“ *I had the privilege of Katie working for me when she was only 16. Her caring heart and beautiful soul was a shining light each day. She loved her family so much. She always kept in touch with me through the years. She will always have a place in my heart and the heart of Tonya's Consignment. Malinda and Manuel you are in my prayers.*

tonya dugger - April 20 at 01:21 PM



“ *I couldn't have been more proud to have such an amazing friend. You were there for not only my best moments but some of my worst too. It was an honor to have you in my life. Go rest easy high on that mountain with the beautiful skies to look down on us all. Love you and miss you terribly my sweet friend*



Brittney Wise - April 20 at 12:49 PM

KC

“Katie stole our hearts from day one when she came into the family. We will miss her greatly, and we will continue to let Emberlyn know how special her mama was and how much she loved her! We will see you again, our dear, sweet niece until then this is see you later! Love Uncle Kevin & Aunt Rhonda



Kevin & Rhonda Cooley - April 20 at 11:25 AM

SR

Melinda and Manuel,
My hearts aches for your loss of your precious Katie. Praying for all those who will feel the loss so deeply this side of heaven. May our Lord hold you close!! 🌹🙏🌹🙏
Sharon Rippy

Sharon Rippy - April 20 at 12:25 PM

DM

Sorry. For your. Loss. Debbie miller

Debbie Miller - April 20 at 06:28 PM

UR

“Uncle Kevin & Aunt Rhonda purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Katie Elizabeth Gipson Cooley.



Uncle Kevin & Aunt Rhonda - April 20 at 11:19 AM