



Erlabell Petry

March 31, 1916 - November 15, 2020

RICHMOND, Ind. – Erlabell Petry, age 104, of Richmond, Indiana, died Sunday, November 15, 2020, at The Springs of Richmond.

Born March 31, 1916, in Richmond, Indiana, to Marion E. and Jennie E. Heller Murphy, Erlabell lived in this community most of her life. She retired from Reid Hospital, where she served as a surgical technician. Erlabell was a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church since 1945 and was formerly active with Girl Scouts of Central Indiana, where she was honored as the oldest, living Girl Scout. Erlabell was a gifted writer of poetry, artist, organist, pianist, and photographer. She enjoyed flower gardening and astrology.

Survivors include her daughters, Barbara Lee Mullin of Richmond, JoAnne Lawson of Farmersville, Ohio, and La Verne Smith of Richmond; sons, Ronald E. (Connie) Wicks and David A. Wicks, both of Richmond; stepdaughter, Madonna of Florida; 24 grandchildren; 44 great-grandchildren; many great-great-grandchildren; nieces; nephews; and many friends.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Merrill M. Petry, who died in 1985 and Fred Rusterholz, who died in 1966; daughters, Blossom Wicks, who died in 1945, Christine Matheny, who died in 2005, and Shirley J. Osborne and Jennie L. Baker, both who died in 2016; stepchildren, Jacqueline Aernie, Bernona Waugh, and John Petry; father; mother, Jennie E. Hough; sister, Elizabeth Cann, who died in 2006; and brothers, Bob Murphy, who died in 1994, Norval Murphy, who died in 1967, and William Murphy, who died in 2002.

Due to the current COVID-19 situation, a private service for Erlabell Petry will be held at the Seventh Day Adventist Church with Pastor Blaine Fults officiating. The service will be recorded and available to view on YouTube. Burial will be in Earlham Cemetery.

Arrangements are being handled by Doan & Mills Funeral Home, 790 National Road West, Richmond.

Memorial contributions may be made to: Seventh Day Adventist Church, 4356 U.S. Highway 35 North, Richmond, IN 47374.

Condolences may be sent to the family via the guest book at www.doanmillsfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery

Earlham Cemetery

1101 National Road West

Richmond, IN, 47374

Comments



“ My wife Takako and I were fortunate to meet cousin Erlabell along with other cousins from my father's side of the family at a family reunion in Richmond, Indiana a couple of years ago. I was amazed at how active and full of energy she was. Condolences and may God bless our extended family!
James Roy Keller and Takako Keller.

James Keller - November 22, 2020 at 12:06 PM



“ I am sorry for your loss. I remember interviewing Erlabell about her Girl Scout experiences a few years ago. She was very kind and helpful and I enjoyed talking with her. Millie Martin Emery

Millicent Martin Emery - November 21, 2020 at 07:29 PM



“ How to go on without my wonderful and loving mom! I was always so close to her and we were always there for each other. I was so over whelmed with my son, Ty, having to do everything for him since 2008 when he moved in with me and dealing with his MS. Then in 2016 when my other son, Jeff lost his leg, paralyzed in the other leg along with many other issues, and having to give him my time ever since I just did not get to do and be with her like I wanted to. Then comes the virus! Life is not always fair and we have to do what we have to do. I wasn't able to help take care of her as she became so frail and her body wore out. I did everything I could to get her the benefits I could for her and Barbara. So many good times we did have in much earlier years. Her goal, when she had all of us kids, was to find the right church to raise us in and allow us to know and love Jesus. She went through so many rough times raising us all by herself and the one thing I always told myself, I never wanted to give her any problems to make it any tougher on her. The sacrifices she made, for not only we children, but for everyone she knew. She had enough laundry, God only knows, but she took in ten washing and ironings for other people. Put out a big garden every year and canned it all to make sure we had plenty of food to eat. Also, want to thank the many people that helped us out, that included the church. If it hadn't have been for all the members of the church coming to pick us up we would have had a very hard time even getting to attend church. I could go on and on, as you can tell, but time doesn't allow. It was so such a privilege to be able to have her as long as we did and each year get to celebrate with a big gathering for her. I want to tell you, she was quit proud as each year rolled around to say, " will I am 100, clear up to add 104! " She would be asked what keeps you going and she always said, " without the Lord, I couldn't have done it! " When the last few weeks, we could see her getting weaker, back and forth to the ER, and then to the Springs, I knew she was at the end of her time. I am so thankful to the Springs, they did allow Barbara and I to go out and spend the time they did with her, She was so peaceful, moving around some, but could not talk to us. We definitely knew she could hear us and know we was there. Her little arms went flying up in the air if we let go of her hands. I felt like I might have crowded Barbara out when they said a very weak heart beat, and I laid over her and kept my finger on her wrist so I could feel her last pulse, which I did! Again, how to go on without my wonderful, loving mom, I pray God gives, not only me, but my brother's and sister's, the strength and faith to carry on as she would want us to do. I was able to tell her in her ear, it's ok mom, you can go to sleep and Jesus has you in the palm of his hands, as she always ended her prayers. "JESUS PLEASE KEEP US ALL IN THE PALM OF YOUR HANDS"

A part of me went with you mom and love is never ending, La Verne



“ Barbara, JoAnne, LaVerne, Ronnie and David,
I am sorry for the loss of you Mother.. She was such a sweet lady. Praying for your family. It does make it easier when you know she is now with Jesus and no more pain
Pat Hill Moore

Pat Hill Moore - November 20, 2020 at 01:14 PM



“ Frank and I send our condolences to Ronnie and Connie during this most difficult time.
Jane and Frank Nevers

Jane Nevers - November 19, 2020 at 01:58 PM



“ Erlabell was such a dear, sweet Christian. When I would give her a pastoral visit in her home or on the phone, when I'd suggest that we pray she would say a nice prayer for me as her Pastor. It just touched my heart! I also loved her poem "Miracle of Spring " about belief in the resurrection. She's resting now awaiting that morning when she'll be awakened by her Savior, Jesus Christ.

Blaine Fults, MDiv - November 19, 2020 at 11:02 AM



“ There are so many memories I could share about Erlabell since that Seminar in 1997 that brought me into the church. She was the greeter, and when I came to church after that, she welcomed me with open arms and always stood by my side and made me feel that she loved having me there. Through the years she has been an inspiration to me and to others to spread the gospel message wherever she goes and whatever she does. Especially lately, when I talked to her on the phone, she would break out in prayer and praises even though she must have felt miserable. Praise the Lord for her spiritual example. May she rest in peace and comfort until Jesus comes. My condolences to the family; I know she will be missed dearly by all of us, Mary Polley

Mary Polley - November 19, 2020 at 08:52 AM



“ Allen and I send our love we have many great memories of her. We called on her 100th birthday was so thrilled to be able to do that. Lots of love.

Gordon and Roxanna Smith - November 18, 2020 at 05:33 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.

David Lydick and the Staff of Doan & Mills - November 18, 2020 at 03:08 PM