



Geraldine "Gerry" Ripke

March 29, 1937 - February 11, 2025

Geraldine Ann (Fahrer) Ripke, 87, of Liberty Center, Ohio passed away peacefully February 11, 2025 on the one year anniversary of her sons deaths. Geraldine was born on March 29, 1937 to Albert P. and Helene (Mengerink) Fahrer and grew up in Malinta, Ohio. At the age of 14, her mother passed, leaving her duties to care for her father and brothers.

Geraldine, aka "Gerry" was a faithful member of St. John's United Church of Christ, Holgate, Ohio. Gerry married Keith Sheller in 1957, and he preceded her in death in 2016. Together they had five children, David, Julie, Daniel, Lisa, and Keith II. In 1966, they purchased the family business, Trucker's Paradise outside of Liberty Center. Gerry loved owning the restaurant and served the patrons for over 54 years. Still to this day, many of her grandchildren refer to her as "Grandma Restaurant". She loved to make them Mickey Mouse pancakes, as well as a breakfast creation called "The Mess". Gerry enjoyed her patrons as they shared their stories and built lasting relationships over the years. She was well known over Northwest Ohio for her homemade pies with coconut cream always being the popular favorite. Gerry married Lynn Ripke in 1981, and he preceded her in death in 2020. They shared 38 years together and enjoyed traveling to wherever her youngest son, Keith, was stationed. She enjoyed the simple pleasures of being surrounded by family and friends, pontoon rides down the river, and a big pot of stew on the riverbank are some of her favorite memories. She was fond of her cats and dogs.

She is survived by her children, David Sheller, Julie Hoffman, and Lisa (Brad) Whitford; 12 grandchildren, Cory, Jenna, Brent, Heather, Alisha, Joetta, Christina, Nicholas, Amy, Leah, Ashley, and Alex, 21 great grandchildren with one on the way; and a brother George Fahrer; step children, Brad (Chris) Ripke, Bart Ripke, Marsha (Phil) Wharry, Brian (Pam) Ripke, Tom (Keasha) Ripke, and Tara (Scott) Buehrer; 22 step grandchildren, and 33 step great grandchildren. She was also preceded in death by her sons, Daniel and Keith II; and brothers, Albert and Lewis.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, February 18th from 2-8:00p.m. at Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home, Napoleon.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, February 19th at the funeral home, with visitation from 9 a.m.-10 a.m. Entombment will follow at Highland Memory Gardens, Waterville, Ohio.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the charity of the donor's choice.

Cemetery Details

Highland Memory Gardens

8308 S River Rd
Waterville, OH 43566

Previous Events

Public Viewing

FEB 18. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Rodenberger Funeral Home - Napoleon
1010 Westmoreland Avenue
Napoleon, OH 43545

Public Viewing

FEB 19. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Rodenberger Funeral Home - Napoleon
1010 Westmoreland Avenue
Napoleon, OH 43545

Funeral Service

FEB 19. 10:00 AM (ET)

Rodenberger Funeral Home - Napoleon
1010 Westmoreland Avenue
Napoleon, OH 43545

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Video*



Rodenberger Funeral Home - February 27, 2025 at 10:49 AM

TA

“ *The Center for Child and Family Advocacy purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Geraldine "Gerry" Ripke.*



The Center for Child and Family Advocacy - February 17, 2025 at 02:07 PM

PG

“ *Gerry, you were so special to me. RIP Susie-Hill-Grass*

Pamela Grass - February 15, 2025 at 08:58 AM

DF

“ *My idea of making a pie was calling Mrs. Ripke at Truckers Paradise and telling her what kind of pie I needed. When I was senior class advisor, we had her pies for dessert after the senior awards night. What a treat for all! One day I asked her to make an apple pie for my husband Bob for Valentine's Day. When I arrived to pick it up, she had cut out hearts in the pie dough topping! Her pies were the best ever, and I always enjoyed chatting with her. What a wonderful lady! Deb Feehan*

Deb Feehan - February 13, 2025 at 08:51 PM

LR

“ Linda R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Geraldine "Gerry" Ripke.

Linda R. - February 13, 2025 at 10:27 AM

RS

“ What a wonderful cook and a great lady.

Rita Schweinhagen - February 13, 2025 at 10:20 AM

PD

“ Gerry was such a great woman. Gerry always had a smile for everyone. She always welcomed all us kids in Truckers and her home. Her pies were the greatest. Even after I grew up she would always smile and say hi whenever I saw her. Gerry will definately be missed. My condolences and prayers to her family.



Pat Stephenson Davis - February 13, 2025 at 09:50 AM