



Rena J. Gathard

July 5, 1935 - March 6, 2025

Rena Jane Gathard, age 89 of Highland, IL, died Thursday, March 6, 2025, at Breese Nursing Home in Breese, IL.

She was born on Saturday, July 27, 1935, in Highland, IL, the daughter of Harvey and Florence (nee Fischer) Zobrist.

On Saturday, November 21, 1953, she married Donald D. Gathard at the First Congregational Church, who passed away on December 8, 1997.

Rena was born in Highland, IL. She graduated from Highland High School in 1953. She was homemaker and then briefly worked at Marine Garment Factory. After her youngest child started school, she went to work at Artex in Highland, IL, in the late 1960s, retiring in 1998. She enjoyed going dancing and eating out with her family and friends, but most of all she loved spending time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She and her husband Don enjoyed boating on Silver Lake and camping at Mick's Lake. Rena also helped Don with his cabinet business. Being a seamstress, she often made her children's own clothes. As a younger woman, she was a member and proud of her 10-year perfect attendance at the Evangelical and Reform Church. After her marriage to Don in 1953, she became a member at First Congregational Church and enjoyed helping in the nursery and the women's groups.

Survivors include:

Daughter - Vickie L. (Mark, Sr.) Voegele, Highland, IL

Son - Scott A (Kathleen) Gathard, Highland, IL

Grandchildren - Michelle L. (Kevin) Hamilton, Coral Springs, FL

Grandchildren - Jana K. (Chad) Zurliene, Highland, IL

Grandchildren - Kimberly M. Gathard, Clarksville, TN

Grandchildren - Austin S. Gathard, Jamestown, IL

Step Grandchild - Mark L. (Danielle) Voegele, Jr., Saint Jacob, IL

Step Grandchild - Catherine R. (Kyle) Jackson, Edwardsville, IL

Step Grandchild - Nathan T. (Lindsey) Voegele, Mountain Home, AR

Step Grandchild - Kristin M. (Ryan) Kneedler, Collinsville, IL

Great Grandchildren - Abigail L. Hamilton, Edwardsville, IL

Great Grandchildren - Memphis S. Zurliene

Great Grandchildren - Whitley K. Zurliene

Great Grandchildren - Presley J. Zurliene

Step Great Grandchild - Katelyn D. Voegele

Step Great Grandchild - Olivia G. Jackson

Step Great Grandchild - Ava E. Jackson

Step Great Grandchild - Bailey A. Roberts

Step Great Grandchild - Parker T. Roberts

Step Great Grandchild - Kalen B. Roberts

Step Great Grandchild - Josie I. Voegele

Step Great Grandchild - Eli L. Kneedler

She was preceded in death by:

Father - Harvey D. Zobrist

Mother - Florence E. Zobrist

Daughter - Debra L. Brown

Brother – Harlan “Arkie” Zobrist

Sister - Joan Paoletti

Arrangements are being handled by Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Visitation will be held from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Friday, March 14, 2025, and from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM on Saturday, March 15, 2025, at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Funeral Service will be at 11:00 AM on Saturday, March 15, 2025, at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL, with Rev. Rich W. Cook, Pastor, officiating.

Interment will be at Highland City Cemetery in Highland, IL.

Memorial contributions may be made to Shriner's Hospital or Highland Masonic Lodge #583.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 14. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home - Highland
1501 9th Street
P.O. Box 187
Highland, IL 62249
(618) 654-2133
info@spengel-boulanger.com

Morning Visitation

MAR 15. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home - Highland
1501 9th Street
P.O. Box 187
Highland, IL 62249
(618) 654-2133
info@spengel-boulanger.com

Funeral Service

MAR 15. 11:00 AM (CT)

Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home - Highland
1501 9th Street
P.O. Box 187
Highland, IL 62249
(618) 654-2133
info@spengel-boulanger.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Angel Figurine Light was purchased for the family of Rena J. Gathard.* ”



March 15, 2025 at 11:43 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rena J. Gathard. ”

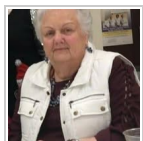
March 15, 2025 at 11:43 AM



“ *Jan Covili lit a candle in memory of Rena Gathard* ”



Jan Covili - March 11, 2025 at 03:33 PM



“ *Rita Rinderer lit a candle in memory of Rena Gathard* ”



Rita Rinderer - March 07, 2025 at 09:50 PM