



Rita J. Gaffner

July 8, 1940 - November 1, 2022

Rita J. Gaffner, age 82 of Highland, IL, died Tuesday, November 1, 2022, at her home, in Highland, IL.

She was born on Monday, July 8, 1940, in Highland, IL, the daughter of Herbert and Margaret (nee Yaeger) Bellm.

On Saturday, October 31, 1959, she married Earl E. Gaffner at St. Paul Catholic Church, Highland, IL, who survives.

She was a member of Saint Paul Catholic Church, Highland, IL; she was an active parishioner of St. Paul Catholic Church her whole life and Highland Garden Club for many years..

Mrs. Gaffner was born in Highland, IL. She grew up on Main Street, in Highland and graduated from St. Paul High School in 1958. Rita had worked at Alton Box Board Company, Highland, IL; Gutzler's Tom Boy Market, Highland, IL; Becker Jewelry, Highland, IL and Pro Alarm, Marine, IL. After her retirement, she spent her time volunteering at the Food Pantry and delivering Meals On Wheels. She enjoyed collecting antiques, playing in softball leagues, couples card club, ladies card club, knitting, cross-stitching and always had a dog and showed dogs in her earlier years. She also liked to travel and had visited Germany, Alaska, Yellowstone and Hawaii. Annual

family vacations to Colorado, Tennessee and Branson, MO. Rita passed away at home with her family. She was an overall wonderful and loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Survivors include:

Husband - Earl E. "Andy" Gaffner, Highland, IL
Daughter - Lisa J. Gaffner, Highland, IL
Daughter - Tina M. (James "Garde") Misegades, Marine, IL
Son - Kevin E. (Jacqueline) Gaffner, Coleman, WI
Grandchild - Cory L. Gaffner
Grandchild - Krista M. Gaffner
Grandchild - Michelle M. Misegades
Grandchild - Christian A. Gaffner
Grandchild - Hollyn M. Gaffner
Great Grandchild - Alaric Gaffner
Great Grandchild - Anthony McCauley
Great Grandchild - Owen Gaffner
Great Grandchild - Luke McCauley
Sister - Patricia M. (Kenneth) Carlin, Wildwood, MO
Nieces and Nephews - Many
Cousins - Many.

She was preceded in death by:

Father - Herbert H. "Spitz" Bellm - Died 6/18/1960
Mother - Margaret C. (nee Yaeger) Bellm - Died 5/07/1995
Sister - Kay Marie Wildhaber - Died 10/21/1973
Sister - Carol Ann Borden - Died 6/14/1974
Brother-In-Law - Robert J. Wildhaber - Died 11/20/2004
Brother-In-Law - Robert E. Borden
Brother-In-Law - Lloyd C. Gaffner - Died 10/31/2002
Sister-In-Law - Judy (nee Becker) Gaffner - Died 1/1/1999

Father-In-Law - Ben W. Gaffner - Died 1/26/1985

Mother-In-Law - Minnie P. (nee Zimmerman) Gaffner - Died 9/17/1998.

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

Visitation will be held from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Thursday, November 3, 2022, and from 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM on Friday, November 4, 2022, at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 AM on Friday, November 4, 2022, at Saint Paul Catholic Church, Highland, IL in Highland, IL, with Rev. Fr. Pat G. Jakel, Pastor, officiating.

Interment will be at Saint Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Highland, IL.

Memorial contributions may be made to Highland Area Christian Service Ministry (HACSM); Meals On Wheels or HSHS Hospice Southern Illinois.

Tribute Wall

RR

“ *Rita Rinderer lit a candle in memory of Rita Gaffner*



Rita Rinderer - November 21, 2022 at 08:06 PM

JE

“ *Tina and Family:
Sending Condolences to your family in the loss of your mother. Your
“Memories” of her will help guide you through this time of sorrow.
Cherish them forever; she sounded like a wonderful lady and will be
missed by many.
Fondly,
Scott and Janna Evers*

Janna and Scott Evers - November 05, 2022 at 06:05 PM

 Jackie
Hanley
Gaffner

“ *https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vRUvWhWLvBAS5k87DGo7zILALX8GwsdnCOqPchqgN6Nnx_kqNANbEnxnM_6Xy4SSvtBrjRPALhXfZrj/pub?start=true&loop=true&delayms=3000*

Jackie Hanley Gaffner - November 04, 2022 at 06:11 PM

JK

“ *I was unable to attend the visitation last night with the Garden Club gals Just want you to know that it's been a true pleasure knowing Rita through the Garden Club. Jan*

Jan Kalmer - November 04, 2022 at 03:22 PM

MT

“ Rita was a wonderful person. I was her hairdresser early on until I moved away to Kentucky. She was showing her Cairn Terriers then and loved her dogs. Our sympathy to her husband and family.

Mary Kay Korte Tabor - November 04, 2022 at 12:11 AM

KS

“ Earl and family, please know how much I always enjoyed seeing Rita. She was truly a people person. May our Lord give all of you comfort as you work through your sadness.

Karen Brown Shaw - November 03, 2022 at 06:58 PM

KP

“ Karen Potthast lit a candle in memory of Rita Gaffner



Karen Potthast - November 03, 2022 at 06:58 PM

SJ

“ Andy, Lisa, Tina and Kevin. I am so sorry for your loss. You have my deepest sympathy. I remember having many conversations with your mom.

Sue (Marti) Johnson

Susan Marie Johnson - November 03, 2022 at 05:26 PM

BK

“ Andy, Lisa, Tina, Kevin and families, I am so sorry for loss. I'll always remember Rita with a smile on her face and how she enjoyed people and life. Sending prayers up for God to wrap his arms around you and give you comfort and Peace.

Bonnie Kloss - November 03, 2022 at 09:03 AM

LB

“ Just want to express my deepest sympathy to the family. So very sorry for your loss.



Linda Bohnenstiehl - November 03, 2022 at 06:41 AM

CM

“ It was such a pleasure to work with Rita at Pro-Alarm. Offering our prayers to the family.

Christine Molitor - November 02, 2022 at 08:49 PM

DP

“ Earl. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Over the past 63 years you shared many memories. Cling to them. May God grant you and your family peace.
Don and Dee

Don and Dee Pollinger - November 02, 2022 at 04:34 PM

ML

“ Mike and I are so very sorry for your loss, Mr Gaffner and family.
The Loyet's

Mine & Collette Loyet - November 02, 2022 at 01:24 PM

SK

“ *Sandra Kohlbrecher lit a candle in memory of Rita Gaffner*



Sandra K Kohlbrecher - November 01, 2022 at 09:35 PM

RR

“ *Rita Rinderer lit a candle in memory of Rita Gaffner*



Rita Rinderer - November 01, 2022 at 07:11 PM

KL

“ *Tina, sorry to hear you lost your Mother. May memories of her warm your hearts in the future. ❤️*
Bob and Sharyn Kline

Kline - November 01, 2022 at 06:05 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Rita J. Gaffner.*



November 01, 2022 at 05:59 PM