



Gertrude Louise Litzner

June 22, 1919 - February 2, 2026

Gertrude “Gert” Louise (Winters) Litzner, age 106, of St. Ignace, Michigan, died on February 2, 2026, at Evergreen Living Center in St. Ignace. She was born on June 22, 1919, in Moran, Michigan, to John William and Cora Louise (Becker) Winters.

Gert attended the Moran School in the lower grades. She stayed with family friends in Sault St. Marie so that she could attend and graduate from Sault Area High School in 1937. Gert’s family moved to St. Ignace in the late 1930s, where she lived all of her adult life.

Gert had a thirty-six year career with Michigan Bell Telephone Company. She became head operator of the St. Ignace office in 1944, running the office and supervising over forty operators who worked the switchboard to provide telephone service to the city. Gert had a great sense of adventure and was often elected driver for the chief operators in the northern districts when they attended state-wide conferences. St. Ignace was one of the last three cities in the country to maintain its switchboard service, transitioning to autodialing in 1974. After assisting with the transition, Gert retired from Bell in 1976. She made many life-long friends among the operators.

Gert married Walter Abraham Litzner on June 1, 1943, at St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church, in St. Ignace. Walt was a sergeant in the United States Army.

He was deployed overseas on the day that their son Doug was born, first meeting Doug upon his return eleven months later. Walt and Gert made a home for their family on Truckey Street. Gert and Walt were married for sixty-seven wonderful years before Walt's death in 2010.

Gert and Walt were devoted parishioners of the St. Ignace Loyola Catholic Church. Walt was head usher and a member of the Knights of Columbus. Gert was a member of the St. Anne's Altar Society and in recent years, served as a "prayer warrior" for young students attending faith formation classes.

Gert was known for her unmatched hospitality. She hosted many gatherings for friends and family. Visitors who popped in to say hello were greeted with mouth-watering, homemade treats and a bottomless cup of coffee. Gert loved her family, friends and community. She had a generosity of spirit, a sharp wit, and a zest for life that surely contributed to her longevity.

Gert is survived by many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews; and friends, Rick and Candy Boston, and Rhonda Engle.

Gert was preceded in death by her husband, Walt; son, Walter "Doug" Litzner; and siblings, Barbara (Harold) Bliss, Raymond (Dorothy) Winters, Jack (Betty) Winters, Margaret (Joseph) Perry, and Mary (Frank) Gruler.

The family extends a heartfelt thanks to all the staff at Evergreen Living Center for their care and kindness to Gert over the past three years.

A Memorial Mass will be held at St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church in June of 2026.

Gert's final resting place will be at St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Cemetery, in St. Ignace.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions, in Gert's honor, may be made to the Evergreen Living Center Activities Fund, 1140 N. State Street, or the St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church, 120 Church St., both in St. Ignace, MI 49781.

Family Life Funeral Homes – St. Ignace assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be given to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Tribute Wall

KK

“ I was a volunteer at the Evergreen Living Center over the summer of 2025. Gert was my favorite person to talk to. She was so full of life and she made my experience there unforgettable. Gert and I would sit and talk about her family, and I really had a great bond with her. As I started my freshman year in high school I made sure to tell Gert how much I loved her, and how much of an impact she made on my life. Gert, I am so so happy for you to see doug and walt again, I can't wait to meet them one day!! I love you!

Kennah Kovacs - February 09 at 07:03 PM