



Stella Marie Willis

September 16, 1927 - February 11, 2017

Stella Marie Willis, age 89, of Goetzville, Michigan, died with her family at her side, on February 11, 2017 at War Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, following a lengthy illness. Stella was born September 16, 1927 to Koney and Nellie (nee Kucharczyk) Schmitigal in Goetzville, Michigan.

Stella grew up in Goetzville and graduated from DeTour High School. She met Eugene Willis when she was a waitress at a diner in Sault Ste. Marie. She gave him an extra piece of pie. They were married November 30, 1946, in Port Huron, Michigan, where Eugene worked for the Marysville Department of Public Works. They raised their son, Mark, in Marysville where Stella worked for Prestolite making coils for car engines. After 35 years, Stella and Eugene both retired in 1986 and moved to Carlsbad, California, to be near where Mark was working. When Mark returned to Goetzville, they did also.

Stella enjoyed making stained glass, gardening, and spending time with family.

Stella is survived by her son, Mark (Deb Flores) Willis; granddaughter, Bobbie Jean Cartwright; two great grandchildren; brothers, Conrad (Phyllis) Schmitigal of Sault Ste. Marie, Stanley (Marjorie) Schmitigal of Pickford, Michigan, Harold (Barbara) Schmitigal of Goetzville, Kenneth (Dianne) Schmitigal of Goetzville, and Eugene (Linda) Schmitigal of Kalamazoo,

Michigan; sisters, Irene Handziak, of Sugar Island, Michigan, Dorothy (Arthur) Bielas of Springfield, Wisconsin, Marion McConkey of Goetzville, Lillian Jankewicz of Traverse City, Michigan, Frances (J.C.) Walther of Kawkawlin, Michigan, and Bonnie (Steve) Newnum of Rapid City, South Dakota.

Stella was preceded in death by her husband, Eugene in 2013.

Memorials may be directed to The Salvation Army, 132 Spruce St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

A graveside service will be held in the spring at North Raber Cemetery in Raber Township, Michigan.

R. Galer Funeral Home in Pickford, Michigan is serving the family.
Condolences may be sent to the family at www.rgalerfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

North Raber Cemetery

Raber Road
Goetzville, MI 49736

Tribute Wall



“ *Stella Marie Willis*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Stella Marie Willis*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Stella Marie Willis*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM