



## Alida "Atie" Vaandrager

May 28, 1923 - October 30, 2016

Alida (Spanjer) Vaandrager, known to her friends and family as Atie, passed at the age of 93 on Sunday October 30, 2016, at the Franciscan Campus in Crown Point, Indiana. Atie was preceded in death by her husband, Hendrik on April 3, 2001, sixteen Vaandrager brothers and sister-in-laws of the Netherlands, and her three brothers and their wives: Harm and Jopie Spanjer, Kees (Cornelius) and Rie Spanjer, and Gerrit and Catriena Spanjer all of the Netherlands. She is survived by sons Hendrik (Henk) Cornelius Tjeert Vaandrager of Boise, Idaho and Nicolaas Arie (Nick) and Mary Ellen Vaandrager of Lowell, Indiana; granddaughters: Jacqueline (Jonathan) Vaandrager Stepanovich of Morganton, North Carolina, Caroline (Dustin) Vaandrager Pittman of Renton, Washington, and grandson Nicolaas Arie (Nico) Vaandrager of San Francisco, California, great-grandchildren, Amelia and Henry (Hendrik) Stepanovich, and Adaline Grace Pittman

Atie, the youngest of four children was born to her parents, Tjeert and Heiltje (vanAbshoven) Spanjer on May 28, 1923 in Rotterdam, Netherlands. She was educated in the public schools of Rotterdam in the custom of the time for female students. At the age of sixteen she stood on the balcony of her home and watched the white parachutes of the German occupation forces enter the country of the Netherlands. She was an active member of the underground in Holland during WWII and served her country with pride. Atie met her husband, Hendrik at a liberation party. They were married January 3, 1946 in

Rotterdam.

Upon Henk's retirement from the Dutch army, Atie and Henk made their home in Rensselaer, Indiana after immigrating from the Netherlands with their sons in April of 1960. Atie was active in the First Christian Church of Rensselaer as a member of the choir and ladies prayer circle. She was an active member of the Jordan Home Economics Club for nearly 40 years until the club disbanded being one of the longest active clubs in Indiana. Atie was active in the 4H program with her sons. She worked at Jordan School by planning and teaching vocational arts to the students. Atie was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her, but most importantly Atie will be remembered as an example of love, courage, resilience, and stoicism. May she rest in peace.

Visitation will be held at Jackson Funeral Chapel, 250 N. McKinley Ave., Rensselaer, Indiana on Friday, November 4, 2016 from 4 pm - 7 pm. Funeral services will be held at the First Christian Church of Rensselaer, 327 N. Van Rensselaer Street, Rensselaer, Indiana on Saturday, November 5, 2016, at 10:30 am with Reverend Elizabeth Hartmann officiating. Burial will follow at Memory Gardens Cemetery, Rensselaer, Indiana.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the First Christian Church of Rensselaer in Atie's honor.

# Cemetery Details

## Memory Gardens of Rensselaer

Memory Gardens  
Rensselaer, IN 47978  
(219) 866-5125  
info@jacksonfuneral.com

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 4. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer  
250 N. McKinley Avenue  
P.O. Box 70  
Rensselaer, IN 47978  
(219) 866-5123  
info@jacksonfuneral.com  
<https://www.jacksonfuneral.com>

## Service

NOV 5. 10:30 AM (CT)

First Christian Church  
327 N. Van Rensselaer Street  
Rensselaer, IN

# Tribute Wall

RS

“ *Hank & Nick-your mom was a special lady and we always enjoyed visiting with her when she came into our store! May God give you comfort and many wonderful memories. Sympathies, Roger & Vicki Steffen*

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**Roger Steffen** - November 06, 2016 at 04:19 PM

JW

“ *Atie's church family will miss her so much. She is dear to us and I always enjoyed our visits. I appreciated from where she came to be with us and what her family went through and she was a brave and lovely woman. My sister Lillian and I visited her and we will miss her. Joanie Witherington*

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**Joan Witherington** - November 04, 2016 at 12:40 PM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Alida "Atie" Vaandrager.*



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November 04, 2016 at 10:46 AM

PZ

“ *Pieter en Corry Vaandrager, Zuidland purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Alida "Atie" Vaandrager.*



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**Pieter en Corry Vaandrager, Zuidland** - November 04, 2016 at 05:56 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Alida "Atie" Vaandrager.*



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November 03, 2016 at 07:10 PM

TW

“ *Hank and Nick, please accept my condolences. I have such great memories of your mom and dad. Your family was a special joy to ours when y'all came to Rensselaer. Atie and mom really enjoyed learning things from each other. Her wonderful smile and laugh will be in my heart. Love to all of you. Thayer (Tomlinson) Walker*

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**thayer walker** - November 03, 2016 at 05:00 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Alida "Atie" Vaandrager.*



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November 03, 2016 at 03:30 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Alida "Atie" Vaandrager.*



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November 03, 2016 at 12:32 PM



“ *Jim & Dorrie Lefler lit a candle in memory of Alida "Atie" Vaandrager*



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**Jim & Dorrie Lefler** - November 03, 2016 at 09:10 AM



“ *Judy Burvan lit a candle in memory of Alida "Atie" Vaandrager*



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**Judy Burvan** - November 02, 2016 at 10:46 PM



“ *Sympathy to Atie's family....I remember your family from the days when you lived on College Avenue. Nick's classmate: Janice Hopkins*

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**JaniceHopkinsMalchow** - November 02, 2016 at 06:32 PM

PB

“ *Paul Bilyeu lit a candle in memory of Alida "Atie" Vaandrager*



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**paul bilyeu** - November 02, 2016 at 04:31 PM

PB

*Atie was a very happy+ friendly Lady always a smile+Hello I remember when they came yo Rensselaer*

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**paul bilyeu** - November 02, 2016 at 04:35 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Alida "Atie" Vaandrager.*



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November 02, 2016 at 03:47 PM