



Gloria Jean McElfresh

June 20, 1946 - March 5, 2026

Gloria Jean McElfresh, age 79, of Rensselaer, Indiana, passed away on March 5, 2026. She was born on June 20, 1946, in Rensselaer to Keith and Mae (Garling) Culp.

Gloria graduated from Rensselaer High School with the Class of 1964 and later completed cosmetology school. She was a longtime employee of the Rensselaer School Corporation, where she worked in food service and previously served as a school bus driver. She also worked for more than 20 years at White Castle Bakery.

Gloria was a member of St. Augustine Catholic Church and was formerly involved with the Red Hat Society. She enjoyed many creative hobbies, including reading, baking, sewing, painting, furniture reupholstery, gardening, and making artificial floral arrangements and Christmas decorations. Gloria especially loved spending time with her grandchildren, playing games with them and caring for her family.

She also generously volunteered her talents with Little Angel Gowns, creating clothing for babies from donated wedding gowns.

Gloria is survived by her children, Mandy (Tom Branson) Miller, Rick (JoAnn) McElfresh, and Dennis (Samantha) McElfresh; her grandchildren, Clayton

(Jessica) Miller, Connor (Lauren) Miller, Luke (Jori) McElfresh, and Logann (Ben) McElfresh; and her great-grandchildren, Charley Miller, Coleman Miller, Cain Miller, and Laken McElfresh. She is also survived by her siblings, Duane (Phyllis) Culp and Marlene (Larry) Pullin, and by her former husband, Robert McElfresh.

She was preceded by her parents, Keith and Mae.

Friends may call on Saturday, March 14, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. CT at Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer. A funeral service will follow at 12:00 p.m. CT, with Father Joshua Bennett officiating. Interment will take place at Osborne Cemetery at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Good Samaritan Food Pantry or to the charity of the donor's choice.

Cemetery Details

Osborne Cemetery

County Rd 450 E
Rensselaer, IN 47978

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 14. 10:00 AM - 12:00 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>

Funeral Service

MAR 14. 12:00 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>

Tribute Wall

TW

“ *Tracie Gentry & Cathy Walker purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Gloria Jean McElfresh.*



Tracie Gentry & Cathy Walker - March 13 at 11:32 AM

SR

“ *Sheryl Robertson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gloria Jean McElfresh.*

Sheryl Robertson - March 12 at 07:37 PM

SR

“ *Sheryl Robertson purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Gloria Jean McElfresh.*



Sheryl Robertson - March 12 at 07:37 PM

KD

“ *Nothing in life prepares us for the loss of our moms. You were so blessed to have had your mom in your life as long as you did. She was a sweet woman, I will never forget the trip to Cincinnati to watch Tim McGraw and Faith Hill. She was just one of the girls. Love you Karen Day*

Karen L Day - March 12 at 11:47 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gloria Jean McElfresh.



March 12 at 08:45 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gloria Jean McElfresh.

March 12 at 08:45 AM



“ Joshua and Brooke Martz purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Gloria Jean McElfresh.



Joshua and Brooke Martz - March 11 at 07:14 PM



“ Jynell M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gloria Jean McElfresh.

Jynell M. - March 11 at 06:33 PM

RH

“ Rob And Jessica Hayes lit a candle in memory of Gloria Jean McElfresh



Rob and Jessica Hayes - March 11 at 04:30 PM

TF

“ Tom, Vikki Johnson and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gloria Jean McElfresh.

Tom, Vikki Johnson and Family - March 10 at 10:25 AM

TF

“ Tom, Vikki Johnson and Family purchased the Fa
irest of All for the family of Gloria Jean McElfresh.



Tom, Vikki Johnson and Family - March 10 at 10:25 AM

LR

“ Mandy, my heart breaks for you and your family. The sudden loss of your beautiful mother, Gloria, is so deeply heartbreaking. She was clearly a woman who loved her family dearly, and the love she poured into all of you will continue to live on.

Please know that you are not alone in these difficult days. I am holding you, Tom, Clayton, Jess (and the littles), Connor, Lauren, your brothers and their families in my prayers. May God surround you all with His comfort and peace as you walk through this time of grief.

Gloria's life mattered, and the love that she gave will never be lost. It lives on in each of you.

*With love and prayers,
Lori*

Lori Rowan - March 08 at 05:27 PM



“ Forever Our Angel Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gloria Jean McElfresh.



March 08 at 05:20 PM

GG

“ Gary and Joyce Gonzenbach purchased the Fair est of All for the family of Gloria Jean McElfresh.



Gary and Joyce Gonzenbach - March 08 at 01:05 PM

JB

“ Red - sorry for your loss. Losing a parent is tough.



Jeff & Steff Brandenburg - March 07 at 08:28 PM

ME

“ Michelle Erwin lit a candle in memory of Gloria Jean McElfresh



Michelle Erwin - March 07 at 04:04 PM

SL

“ I was terribly saddened to hear that Gloria had died. She was a great friend beginning in junior high, and one of my favorite people even though we had little contact after high school. My favorite memory is being stranded in a snow storm on the way to the basketball sectionals in Kentland. Gloria and I sat in the backseat with her sister Marlene, a cheerleader who had to get to the game! Her dad was driving, and her mom sat in the front with him. It was slightly scary since we couldn't get out of the snowdrift, and didn't know when we'd be rescued. But we still laughed and had a good time, making the best of being cold and hungry. Gloria was beautiful inside and out, always full of fun, and I can still hear the joy in her hearty laugh. My condolences to the family at this terrible loss.

susie anderson lang - March 07 at 10:32 AM

TD

So sorry for the loss of your mother. I remember you always having her down amd making sure she had all the comforts while in your home. You will always hold her in your heart and you'll be together again some day.

Praying for peace and understanding during this difficult time.

Much love and a virtual hug to you and all your family.

Tracey Day

Tracey Day - March 07 at 12:57 PM

AR

“ *Greg and I send out condolences. We met her only a few times but she was always so friendly and welcomed us each time we saw her. God bless you all during this difficult time*



angela roberts - March 07 at 10:04 AM

JS

“ *Jim Steiner lit a candle in memory of Gloria Jean McElfresh*



Jim Steiner - March 07 at 10:02 AM

MC

“ *Marilyn Chapman lit a candle in memory of Gloria Jean McElfresh*



Marilyn Chapman - March 07 at 07:37 AM

GB

“ Gloria Baier lit a candle in memory of Gloria Jean McElfresh



Gloria Baier - March 06 at 11:09 PM

CB

“ Chris Pass Bormann lit a candle in memory of Gloria Jean McElfresh



Chris Pass Bormann - March 06 at 10:43 PM

CB

Can hardly believe this and so very sorry for Gloria's family. 🙏🙏🙏
rest in peace, my friend 🕯

Chris Pass Bormann - March 06 at 10:47 PM

CS

“ Cindy Sheffer lit a candle in memory of Gloria Jean McElfresh



Cindy Sheffer - March 06 at 09:43 PM

MC

“ Mary Jo Casey lit a candle in memory of Gloria Jean McElfresh



Mary Jo Casey - March 06 at 07:27 PM

MC

Gloria was such a wonderful lady. She worked with my husband Bill at White Castle and drove the bus my daughters rode. Sending prayers to the family

Mary Jo Casey - March 06 at 07:29 PM

DW

“ Gloria was a great person to work with, and just a great person to be around! She loved to laugh, and it was contagious!!!... I will miss seeing her everyday!!! She always had great stories, and loved her family!! Prayers and hugs to all!!!!

Desiree wanda - March 06 at 07:11 PM

DG

“ Diana Gaines lit a candle in memory of Gloria Jean McElfresh



Diana Gaines - March 06 at 06:18 PM

LJ

“ *Lisa Jennings lit a candle in memory of Gloria Jean McElfresh*



Lisa Jennings - March 06 at 06:05 PM

LJ

We have lost to heaven a wonderful loving lady. God bless the McElfresh family may they receive comfort strength and love in this difficult time

Lisa Jennings - March 06 at 06:07 PM

DS

“ *A wonderful lady always had a smile . Worked with Gloria had great times made the best banana bread ever.. loved her family and definitely enjoyed her great grandchildren loved to get videos and pictures. She will definitely be missed.. prayers for the family..*



Donna Sullivan - March 06 at 05:45 PM

DB

“ *David And Kim Berenda lit a candle in memory of Gloria Jean McElfresh*



David and Kim Berenda - March 06 at 05:39 PM

CG

“ *Cathy Prohosky Goin lit a candle in memory of Gloria Jean McElfresh*



Cathy Prohosky Goin - March 06 at 05:38 PM

GS

“ *Gary Sheffer lit a candle in memory of Gloria Jean McElfresh*



Gary Sheffer - March 06 at 05:34 PM