



## Elnora Gilson

July 21, 1933 - November 12, 2023

A life dedicated to serving others came to an end on November 12, 2023, when Elnora Gilson left this life to journey to her heavenly home. Elnora was born on July 21, 1933 in rural Havana to Orville Bohm and Dorothy Blakely Bohm. She married Cecil Gilson on June 3, 1951 in Havana, Illinois.

Left behind to mourn her passing are three sons: Marshall (Karen) Gilson of Bartonville, Illinois; Kevin (Sherry) Gilson of Havana, Illinois; and Craig (Jenni) Gilson of Springfield, Illinois; seven grandchildren: Andy (Melissa) Gilson, Kirk (Aneesha) Gilson, Tony (Stephanie Webb) Gilson, Josh (Jackie) Gilson, Jay Gilson, Jess (Tyler) Sayers, and Ashleigh (Kyle Gustafson) Gilson; seven great-children: Ryan and Jack Gilson, Brooklyn Gilson, Alexis Sayers, Eleigh and Kyleigh Gustafson, and Evan Miller; and two sisters: Marjorie Friedrich of Havana and Janet (Norm Menzenberger) of Stronghurst. Elnora was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Cecil; brothers, Bob Bohm and Dick Bohm, and sister, Phyllis Bohm Graham.

After graduating from Havana High School, Elnora attended beauty school in Springfield, Illinois.

She operated Elnora's Gold-N-Touch beauty shop in her home for over 50 years. She was a Cub

Scout den mother for her three sons and a member of the Havana Jayceettes. In her spare time,

Elnora enjoyed many hobbies but none more than ceramics. She hosted ceramic and china-

painting classes in her home studio for students of all ages, and generously donated

personalized ceramic basketball players and cheerleaders to teams at Havana High School.

Elnora was an active member of the Havana Church of Christ, where she served as a Sunday

School teacher, a VBS craft director, and the organizer of countless funeral meals and potlucks.

Throughout the years, she and Cecil supported a variety of mission projects, readily donating

their time and financial support to organizations both locally and worldwide.

They were also

full-time volunteers for the American Red Cross. During their 17-year "career", they organized

bi-monthly blood drives, always striving to beat the previous donor totals while providing a

home-cooked meal at the end. Those meals, orchestrated by Elnora, were legendary,

prompting even the most nervous donor to roll up their sleeve. She and Cecil also made

countless homemade cookie and candy trays each December which they distributed to

everyone from the postman to city workers to shut-ins.

As much as Elnora loved supporting her community, friends, and church family, her greatest pleasure in life came from helping and spending time with her own family. She loved to cook and the kids knew there would always be a treat waiting for them at Grandma's house, including two shifts of school lunches for her grandkids and their friends throughout their high school careers. She was always available to listen, offer advice, or give a hug to whomever needed it. Over the years, Elnora sat through countless ballgames, track meets, and recitals.

When she was no longer physically able to attend events, she kept up with her grandkids and great-grandkids on Facebook, "liking" everything they posted.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, November 16, 2023, from 5:00-7:00pm at Hurley Funeral Home. Funeral services will be Friday, November 17, 10:00am at the Havana Church of Christ. Burial will follow the services at Laurel Hill Cemetery in Havana.

In celebration of Elnora's life of service, the family asks that in lieu of flowers memorials be given to the following: the American Red Cross to support local blood drives, Lake Springfield Christian Assembly to provide scholarships for youth campers, or the Havana Church of Christ.

Hurley Funeral Home in Havana is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Laurel Hill Cemetery

1105 E Laurel Ave  
Havana, IL 62644  
(309) 543-2986

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **16**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Havana  
217 North Plum Street  
P.O. Box #648  
Havana, IL 62644  
(309) 543-2244  
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

## Funeral Service

NOV **17**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Church of Christ  
350 S Broadway  
Havana, IL 62644  
(309) 543-2854

# Tribute Wall



“ Hurley Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Elnora Gilson



Hurley Funeral Home - November 16, 2023 at 03:14 PM

RR

*Elnora made this world a much better place. My sympathy to her wonderful family*

Randy Rutledge - November 16, 2023 at 07:00 PM

RB

“ *Elnora was a wonderful woman. My condolences to her family.*

Rita Badger - November 17, 2023 at 06:15 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Elnora Gilson.*



November 15, 2023 at 03:18 PM

FM

“ From All your Friends at Patton Mining planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Elnora Gilson.

From All your Friends at Patton Mining - November 15, 2023 at 03:18 PM

NE

“ Nancy Elliott lit a candle in memory of Elnora Gilson



Nancy Elliott - November 15, 2023 at 03:12 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elnora Gilson.



November 15, 2023 at 02:59 PM

RQ

“ RON AND BARB QUINONES lit a candle in memory of Elnora Gilson



RON AND BARB QUINONES - November 15, 2023 at 09:51 AM

EB

“ Elizabeth Bryan lit a candle in memory of Elnora Gilson



Elizabeth Bryan - November 14, 2023 at 11:12 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Elnora Gilson.



November 14, 2023 at 08:39 PM

ES

“ So sorry for your loss! She will be missed by so many that knew her. Prayers for comfort for the family.



Elva Stigall - November 14, 2023 at 03:03 PM

DW

“ Dan And Chris Wilson lit a candle in memory of Elnora Gilson



Dan and Chris Wilson - November 14, 2023 at 08:56 AM

EL

“ Eileen Long lit a candle in memory of Elnora Gilson



Eileen Long - November 14, 2023 at 01:12 AM

CK

“ So sorry for your loss Prayers to the family. So many memories Elnora got me interested in China painting classes. They were in Lewistown. She said we need 1 more to fill the car. So I went. I'm still painting and that was over 40years ago. Lots of memories in ceramic class too. I even helped her pour ceramics. She will be missed.

Carol Fisk Kolves - November 13, 2023 at 11:05 PM

RK

“ Rhonda K. lit a candle in memory of Elnora Gilson



Rhonda K. - November 13, 2023 at 10:35 PM

TK

“ Very nice lady and giving to a fault, so very sorry for your families loss!

Teresa Kline - November 13, 2023 at 09:36 PM

JR

“ Jennifer Reese lit a candle in memory of Elnora Gilson



Jennifer Reese - November 13, 2023 at 08:46 PM

LW

“ Lori Abd Dan Wright lit a candle in memory of Elnora Gilson



Lori abd Dan Wright - November 13, 2023 at 08:23 PM

SS

“ Susan and Scott purchased the Garden Accent - "Someone you love..." for the family of Elnora Gilson.



Susan and Scott - November 13, 2023 at 08:14 PM

SS

“ Susan and Scott planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Elnora Gilson.

Susan and Scott - November 13, 2023 at 08:14 PM

LC

“ *Lanette Crum lit a candle in memory of Elnora Gilson*



**Lanette Crum** - November 13, 2023 at 06:35 PM

NE

“ *My thoughts and prayers to her entire family. Such a nice lady*



**Nancy Elliott** - November 13, 2023 at 04:51 PM

TO

*My thoughts and prayers are with her family! Love Ted, Lynn and Pinky ONEY!!*

**Ted oney** - November 14, 2023 at 08:55 AM

JC

*Sincerest condolences to the Gilson Family. John and Diane Czaicki*

**John Czaicki** - November 17, 2023 at 07:55 AM

DW

“ *Dan Chris Wilson lit a candle in memory of Elnora Gilson*



**Dan and Chris Wilson** - November 13, 2023 at 04:39 PM

JJ

“ So many good memories that will never be forgotten.

Jess & Janie - November 13, 2023 at 03:58 PM

JF

“ Joy Fischer lit a candle in memory of Elnora Gilson



Joy Fischer - November 13, 2023 at 03:27 PM

PB

“ Pauline Bailey lit a candle in memory of Elnora Gilson



Pauline Bailey - November 13, 2023 at 02:32 PM

FA

“ One of the sweetest people I have ever got to meet so sad to hear of her passing



FallonBucher - November 13, 2023 at 12:49 PM

LT

“ So very sorry for your family's loss! My sincere condolences! Lisa Thompson



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**Lisa Jill Thompson** - November 13, 2023 at 12:44 PM