



## Holly E. Heffren

January 1, 1949 - January 5, 2021

Holly E. Heffren, 72, passed away January 5, 2021 at OSF Richard L. Owen Hospice Home. She was born January 1, 1949 at St. Mary's Hospital in LaSalle, IL. She was preceded in death by her father, Geno Galetti, and mother, Edna (Norton) Galetti. She was married to the late John E. Heffren of Lewistown.

Holly is survived by her two sons, Chad Heffren, married to Kari (Pilkington) Heffren, of Crawfordville, FL; and Jeff Heffren, married to Jackie (LoBianco) Heffren, of East Peoria, IL. Holly leaves behind six granddaughters that she adored; Taylor, Tori, Trista, Anna, Carli, and Kate. She also leaves behind her brother and his wife, David and Mary Galetti, of Virginia Beach, VA.

Holly had many loves, including her two sons, the beach, the Chicago Bears, and traveling with her closest friends. But her greatest love was her six granddaughters. Holly truly enjoyed watching them grow into the wonderful young women they are today. She was also very proud of the career that she made for herself. She graduated from LaSalle-Peru High School in 1967 and attended Saint Francis School of Nursing, where she became a Registered Nurse and began her long career as a nurse. After many years of working nights and raising her two sons, Holly enrolled in Spoon River Community College, and earned her Associate Degree so that she could then enroll into Illinois State University, where she graduated with her Masters of Science in

Nursing, and then turned around and became Family Nurse Practitioner. She started new jobs with many challenges, and ended up at OSF Saint Francis, where it all began, retiring from there in 2015. Holly spent 45 years doing what she loved, and always making her family priority number one. "Grandma Holly" tried to never miss a game or event that her six granddaughters were a part of, just like she did her two sons. She was loved by many people because of her compassion for people and her genuine nature.

A Celebration of Life will be held on July 20, 2021 at 1st United Methodist Church in Havana from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers or donations, online condolences can be left for the family at [www.hurleyfh.com](http://www.hurleyfh.com).

Hurley Funeral Home in Havana is in charge of arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JUL **20**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church - Havana  
101 S. Broadway  
Havana, IL 62644  
(309) 543-4725

# Tribute Wall



“ Hurley Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Holly E. Heffren



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**Hurley Funeral Home** - July 07, 2021 at 03:55 PM



“ Holly E. Heffren

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October 12, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ Holly was a wonderful nurse and I loved working with her at MDH. She was a fabulous mentor to me in my first years of nursing 1980-1984. Her friendship was a blessing to me and my husband, who also worked Maintenance a few years at MDH. With our sympathy as you miss her.

*Paula and David Redenius  
Sherman, Il*



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**Paula Redenius** - July 16, 2021 at 03:49 PM

SC

“ *Sandy Crater lit a candle in memory of Holly E. Heffren*



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**sandy crater** - January 17, 2021 at 10:47 PM

JW

“ *Sending my heart felt condolences. Holly, embraced life, learning, and caring. She will be missed*

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**Judy Walloch** - January 13, 2021 at 08:46 PM

BS

“ *Chad and Jeff, so sorry to hear about your Mom. Thinking of you and keeping you in our prayers.*



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**Brian Siever** - January 08, 2021 at 09:56 PM

KB

“ Due to Holly’s fulfilling and demanding profession she was unable to attend church services until she retired, at which time she started attending our church at Havana First UMC. We quickly gathered her into our church family and got her involved with singing in the choir for our Christmas and Easter cantata’s. She joined the United Methodist Women where she was Vice-President one year and on our food pantry and bereavement committees. She attended every Sunday she could, had her favorite pew spot, and kept us informed during announcements and prayer concerns of the many achievements of her granddaughters 😊. She has been and will be missed.  
RIP Holly,  
Ruth Anne

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**Ken and Ruth Beaty** - January 08, 2021 at 04:15 PM

JG

“ Sincere condolences Jeff, Chad and your families. I have many fond memories you guys in Havana. Jeff, you and your Mom are the reason I'm a Chicago Bears fan. Your Mom let me stay over at your house always, and I'm forever grateful.

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**John Gregory** - January 08, 2021 at 01:06 PM

DW

“ Sorry for your loss Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family



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**Dan and Chris Wilson** - January 07, 2021 at 07:56 PM

JB

“ I worked with Holly at Graham Hospital. She was a wonderful nurse. She loved to share her knowledge with others and was always will to lend a helping hand to others in need. My sincere condolences to her family. I know she will be missed by many.

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**Joyce Behymer** - January 07, 2021 at 07:51 PM

JS

“ Condolences Chad and Jeff and your families.  
Holly was a great neighbor and will be missed.  
Thoughts and prayers for you all.

*Shults family*



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**julie shults** - January 07, 2021 at 07:45 PM

TS

“ You are all in our thoughts and prayers



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**Tara and Corey Scheland** - January 07, 2021 at 07:23 PM

PP

“ I have known Holly for many years. We would share stories and had many laughs. She was an outstanding Nurse Practitioner and a great Mom too her Sons and Granddaughters! She also loved to travel especially to her favorite beaches and oceans!!! To all who new her she will be sadly missed! PAP

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**Pat Pilkington** - January 07, 2021 at 03:09 PM

KR

“ *Kim Russell lit a candle in memory of Holly E. Heffren*



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**Kim Russell** - January 07, 2021 at 01:59 PM

AH

“ *Angie Hodgson lit a candle in memory of Holly E. Heffren*



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**angie hodgson** - January 07, 2021 at 01:53 PM

AH

“ *So sorry to hear of Holly's passing. We worked together years ago @ Mason District hospital. She was a wonderful, caring, smart, devoted nurse. I was so proud of her when I heard she had become a nurse practitioner! May she rest in blissful peace.*  
*Angie Hodgson*

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**angie hodgson** - January 07, 2021 at 01:53 PM

EJ

“ *I worked with Holly on third shift at Mason District Hospital. She was an excellent charge nurse. Any nurse that worked with Holly could learn a lot. My condolences to Chad, Jeff, and the rest of the family. Love & Prayers to All. Elsie & Larry Jones*

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**Elsie Jones** - January 07, 2021 at 01:29 PM

LW

“ I am the nurse I am today because of Holly! She taught me so much as I was starting out as a brand new nurse back in 1983 at MDH. I will miss her dearly. Condolences to you boys and the rest of her family.

Lori and Dan Wright - January 07, 2021 at 10:32 AM

RP

The very first day i was on the floor at Mason District Hospital in 1984 Holly was the nurse that was working that day with me. I think we each had ten or twelve patients. She might as well have had 24 patients as much as she had to help me. But she didn't complain about me and we got through it. The next day she said to me, "I wasn't sure you would show up today?" She was a person who always looked at things in a slightly different way and often communicated by asking questions.

And she was probably the best nurse I ever worked with! Not only was she very good herself but she pulled whoever was working with her up to her level. In an occupation that was said back then to "eat their young," she shared what she knew with all of us. If I or a family member were ever hospitalized, she was a nurse that i would always trust to give us the best care possible no matter what was going on in her personal life.

In recent years, I enjoyed talking with Holly when I would see her at athletic events. She was not at all bashful about bragging about her granddaughters but it didn't bother me: they really are superior. And I respected her for embracing her differences: she asked me "How many people do you know that have gall bladder cancer?" (No one but you Holly!)

I will miss you, Holly, even though I didn't see you often. Sincere sympathy to Chad and Jeff and families. Rita and Warren Potter

Rita Potter - January 07, 2021 at 04:43 PM

MB

*Chad & Jeff,*

*Was sorry to hear of your mom's passing. My condolences to you two and your families. I know she's in a better place with no more suffering. Holly was a very interesting woman. You never had to wonder where she stood! Other than football games, when I was driving the bus for Havana and would stand and talk with her while she proudly watched her son coach, I didn't get to see her much! That was because when she wasn't working she was at her granddaughters's events. She raised two fine young men. She was always very proud of your accomplishments. I will miss running into her now and again. God bless you and she will always be alive in your memories. I will keep her and you in my prayers.*

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**Mary (Fletcher) Bares** - January 08, 2021 at 09:25 PM

PA

*Chad and Jeff, Holly and I were classmates and good friends at Saint Francis Hospital School of Nursing. She was one of a kind and kept us all in stitches. I am so sorry for your loss.*

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**Paulette M. Archer** - January 09, 2021 at 12:18 PM

JC

*To Chad and Jeff and rest of the family.*

*I last talked to Holly about 3 months ago and even though she was still getting chemo, she was in her usual good spirits talking about her grand daughters and recounting her uncommon diagnosis and biopsies and treatments.*

*I met Holly while working at Mason District Hospital and she impressed me with her knowledge, streak of independence and good care she gave all the patients. She always wanted to learn more and asked questions. I never forgot while we were assessing a patient's abdomen she said to me: did you hear that borborygmi (gurgling sound made by the bowels)? She was above and beyond.*

*I was impressed by the fact that while caring for the two of you, she was able to proceed to get advanced degrees even while working. Holly you will be missed!*

*My condolences to all the family.*

*Jaime Cercone*

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**Jaime Humberto Cercone** - January 10, 2021 at 04:32 PM

JW

*Your family is in my thought & prayers. I grew up in LaSalle with Holly. So sorry for your loss.*

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**Janice Kierski Washkowiak** - January 11, 2021 at 07:43 AM