



Carol N. Stern

May 19, 1933 - July 23, 2025

Carol Natalie Stern, formerly of Bluffton, Indiana, passed away peacefully on July 23, 2025, at the age of 92.

Born in Bluffton on May 19, 1933, to Glen and Queenie Barger, Carol was the youngest of three children and grew up alongside her beloved brothers, Bill and John Barger, both of whom preceded her in death. On September 7, 1952, she married Doyle Robert Stern. They shared 67 years of marriage marked by deep love, faith, and a commitment to family. He preceded her in death on January 16, 2020.

Carol was a woman of warmth, creativity, and service. She worked at RS & M Studios, where she carefully colored black-and-white photographs by hand. She later served as the bookkeeper for her husband's business, Stern's Auto Body, and eventually took on several roles at the Wells County Public Library—combining her love of organization, books, and people.

A lifelong member of the First United Methodist Church of Bluffton, Carol was deeply grounded in her faith and service. She and Doyle participated in mission trips across the United States and abroad, including to Africa and Jamaica. Carol was widely known as a gracious host and loved nothing more than gathering family and friends around her table. She enjoyed painting, sewing, flower arranging, and other creative pursuits, and found peace and joy in time spent outdoors and in travel—whether on church trips, family

vacations, or walks in nature.

She is survived by her sons, Tim (Libby) Stern of West Bloomfield, MI, and Mark (Suzanne) Stern of Kewanee, IL; her grandchildren Ashley (Kyle) Morey of Geneseo, IL, Ali (Tyler) Litton of Atkinson, IL, Glen (Alexis) Stern of Detroit, MI, and Adam (Erin) Stern of Livonia, MI; and her great-grandchildren Landon, Charlotte, Grady, Milo, Lily, and Lucy, with two more expected soon. She is also remembered fondly by her extended family and the many friends whose lives she touched over the years.

Calling hours will be held at Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton, IN on August 9th from 10:00am to Noon. A Private family graveside will be held at Elm Grove Cemetery, Bluffton, IN, with Rev. Ed Fisher officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Parkinson's Foundation or the First United Methodist Church of Bluffton and can be directed to the funeral home.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can share online condolences with the Stern family at www.thomarich.com.

Cemetery Details

Elm Grove Cemetery

3500 East State Road 124
Bluffton, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 9. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
<http://www.thomarich.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Carol N. Stern*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - August 09, 2025 at 10:12 AM

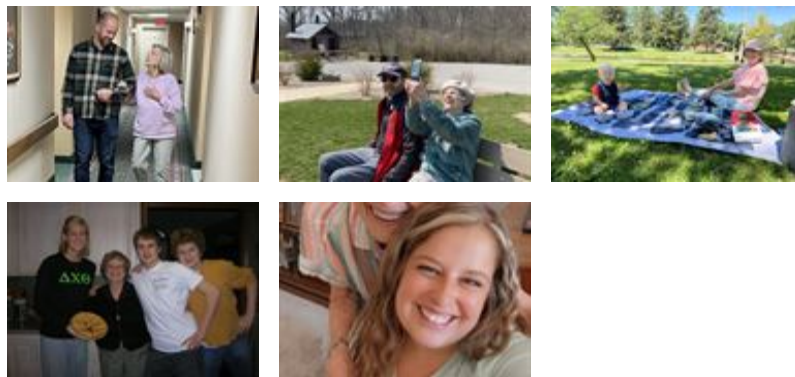
RL

“ *So sorry to hear of Carols passing. I worked with Carol at the library. She invited us to her lake house several times. I have enjoyed recent pictures of her with her family on Facebook. She always had a big smile!*

Rose Lindblom - August 14, 2025 at 05:23 PM



“ *83 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - August 07, 2025 at 12:18 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Carol N. Stern.



August 07, 2025 at 09:05 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Carol N. Stern.

August 07, 2025 at 09:05 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Carol N. Stern.



August 07, 2025 at 08:58 AM



“ My sympathy to family of Carol Stern who was a wonderful friend and fellow traveler to Mission trips and personal travel adventure with Doyle and my husband Earl. They were loving and fun friends in the "Chicken Foot Gang" for many overnight adventures. Louise Luke

Louise Luke - August 06, 2025 at 01:58 PM



“ 48 files added to the album Life Tributes



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - August 06, 2025 at 12:14 PM