



Elizabeth Ann Bayless

June 12, 1935 - August 13, 2025

Elizabeth "Liz" Ann Bayless, 90 of Bluffton, Indiana, entered into the presence of the Lord on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, while surrounded by her family. Liz was born to Harry J. Stahl and Marguerite (Archbold) Stahl on June 12, 1935, in Bluffton and remained a lifelong resident of Wells County. She graduated from Lancaster High School in 1953 and married Keith L. Bayless (1935-1985) at the First Baptist Church in Bluffton on August 21, 1954.

In 1964 Liz began her job at the Wells County Public Library, helping to run the bookmobile program. She also worked in children's services and at the circulation desk, and as staff in Tech Services, processing new library materials. She retired after 48 years of service in December 2012 and inspired a love of reading among family, friends, and patrons.

Liz loved to play cards, golf, and bowl. She hosted and participated in regular games with close friends, and lovingly introduced and challenged her kids, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to rounds of Hand & Foot, Euchre, Racko, Sequence, and Bridge. She also enjoyed football and was known for her crocheting, cross-stitching, and fondness of puzzles.

A faithful servant of the Lord, she became a member of the First Baptist Church of Bluffton in 1954. Liz prioritized participation in a faith community and was dedicated to supporting her congregation's efforts year-round, especially at Thanksgiving and Christmas. She recently joined the congregation of the First Reformed Church of Bluffton and Pastor Dr. Gene Bell baptized her, with the loving support of church elders and members, before she passed.

Liz is survived by her three children, Ann L. Staton, Gay D. Bayless, and Steven K. Bayless; grandchildren Caleb Staton, Seth (Lindsey) Double, Casey (Claire) Staton, Brittany (Dustin) Fremion, Braden (Gillian) Bayless, and Lauren (Ryan) Hasler; nine great-grandchildren; and friends, all of whom she loved dearly. She is preceded in death by her

parents, husband Keith, and two siblings, Mary Louis Wasson and Joy Clayton Stahl.

Funeral services will take place at 2 P.M. on Wednesday, (August 20, 2025) at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton, with Dr. Bryson “Gene” Bell officiating. Burial will take place at St. Paul Cemetery in Rockcreek Township.

Visitation will take place from 12 Noon to 2 P.M. on Wednesday, prior to the service.

Preferred memorials are donations to the Wells County Public Library (<https://wellscolibrary.org/donation-information/>) and First Reformed Church of Bluffton (<https://www.firstreformedbluffton.org/give>).

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

John 14:1-4

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Cemetery Details

St. Paul Cemetery

1621 W. 300 N.
Bluffton, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 20. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

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

Funeral Service

AUG 20. 2:00 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall

SD

“ My sincere condolences to Ann, Gay, Steve, and all the grandchildren and great-grandchildren during this difficult time. Liz Bayless was a great lady and a true class act. I have fond memories of her from our time long ago. She will be missed by many. Respectfully, Steve Double

Steve Double - August 20, 2025 at 09:41 AM



“ I knew "Aunt Liz" mostly when I was a kid, but even at a young age it was easy to know she was the nicest person, and very pretty. I'm still amazed at how easy she made water skiing look. I couldn't believe she could ski without getting her hair wet. I'm sorry she's gone, she was a good person

Kevin Costello - August 19, 2025 at 02:27 PM

TF

“ The Heller family purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Elizabeth Ann Bayless.



The Heller family - August 19, 2025 at 11:11 AM

SJ

“ Steven and Ann Johnson purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Elizabeth Ann Bayless.



Steven and Ann Johnson - August 19, 2025 at 09:50 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Elizabeth Ann Bayless.

August 18, 2025 at 02:48 PM



“ *Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Ann Bayless.*



August 18, 2025 at 02:48 PM

MH

“ *I have known Liz for a long time. We didn't visit much. She lived in Bluffton and I lived in Markle, both were busy raising our families. She was a cheerleader at Lancaster and I was a cheerleader at Union Center. She was special. If we happen to meet up with one another, we talked I volunteer at the Bluffton Hospital. A few months ago, Liz was an in patient at the hospital. I took time to go up to 2nd floor to visit with her. She seemed very glad to see me. She knew I loved to knit so after that visit she came to our house to show me a green afghan she had knit for a grandchild. It was very well done. So sorry about the accident. She was loved by many and will be missed by many as well as myself.*

Marlene Hoopingarner, husband Don

We had two girls Pam graduated in 1976. Steve Bayless was in that class.

Shari graduated from Norwell also in 1981.

Marlenen Hoopingarner - August 17, 2025 at 04:54 PM

LM

“ *Liz was always kind and friendly. She and my mom worked together at the library. She kept in touch with mom, especially after my dad passed. I am so sorry for your loss and keeping your family in my prayers. May you find comfort in memories shared.*

Louise Miller - August 17, 2025 at 12:02 PM

KR

“ *Ann, Gay, and Steve. So very sorry about your mom. Great memories at Dallas Lake! We all think of you often. Kris Brickley Reade.*

Kris Brickley Reade - August 17, 2025 at 11:06 AM

TP

“ *Ann, Gay, and Steve, so sorry for your loss. Good neighbors, Good memories. What a wonderful lady she was.*

Terry Powell - August 17, 2025 at 09:35 AM

TF

“ *The Staton Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Elizabeth Ann Bayless.*



The Staton Family - August 16, 2025 at 08:43 PM



“ *Liz was one classy lady. She was my neighbor when I was a child. Ann, Gay, and Steve played with my sister and brother. I was a bit older. We were at their house often. She was incredibly friendly and good to us as neighbor kids. I thought that she was beautiful when I was a child. I think that she still maintained her beauty. Her work at the library was legendary. I would see her on occasion and she always greeted me as if I was a close friend. She lived a very productive life, was kind and considerate, and served others as a literary agent.*

Debra Siela - August 16, 2025 at 01:50 PM

JT

“ *Julia Tobias lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth Bayless*



Julia Tobias - August 16, 2025 at 12:58 PM

BC

“ *Dear Ann, Gay, and Steve I am so very saddened to hear this! It was a shock to me! I had just talked to your mother at the Hospital that day or the day before the accident! It really hurts my Heart to see something like this happen to a very Beautiful Soul! Your Mom was a very Beautiful woman inside and out! Our Prayers go out to each of you in the days, weeks, months, and years to come! 🙏🙏🙏 May the God that saves us give u Peace, Grace and Comfort as u Greive her loss! Your Mother Liz God Bless the Bayless Family! Your Mother Liz had a very special place in my Heart! Love, Barry and JoEllen!*



Barry Crosbie - August 15, 2025 at 03:41 PM



MG

I first met your dear mother when I was a scared 1st grader riding on the same school bus. She was a senior and immediately adopted me as her charge! I never forgot that. We continued our friendship through the bookmobile, library visits and life. She was a wonderful, sweet and kind lady! Hope she'll put her arm around me and welcome me into heaven someday! Sympathy and prayers for everyone.

Mary K. Gerber - August 18, 2025 at 02:34 PM