



## Ellen Reff

August 7, 1929 - September 19, 2024

Lena "Ellen" Reff, 95, of rural Bluffton, passed away peacefully on Thursday morning, September 19, 2024 at Lutheran Life Villages at Inverness in Fort Wayne. She was born on August 7, 1929, in Wells County to Paul and Mary (Dowty) Gilbert. She graduated from Rockcreek Center High School in 1947. On October 9, 1949, in Uniondale, Ellen and Harley "Wayne" Reff were married.

Together they operated the family dairy farm for 40 years. Ellen also worked as a part time accountant at the Brooks McCarty Accounting firm and Emshwiller & Emshwiller for 49 years.

She enjoyed her family and helping others. She was a long-time volunteer at the Bargain Hut and with Operation Christmas Child. She was an accomplished seamstress, cook and baker.

She is survived by her daughter, Pamela (Randy) Barkley of Ossian, along with two grandchildren, Joshua (Heather) Barkley of Ossian and Elizabeth (Thomas) Black of Madison, AL, and six great grandchildren, Jordan, Milo, Liora, Lylah Barkley, and Emersyn and Everett Black.

She is preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Wayne Reff, and siblings, Duane Gilbert, Margaret Sheets, Keith Gilbert, Gene Gilbert, and Lyle Gilbert.

Funeral services will take place at 3 pm on Friday, September 27, 2024, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton with Pastor Clark Stoller officiating. Visitation will take place from 12 noon to 3 pm on Friday,

September 27, 2024 at the funeral home prior to the service.

Preferred memorials can be made to Living Water United Church or payable to Samaritan's Purse for the Operation Christmas Child project.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home Friends can send online condolences with the family at [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Stahl Cemetery

3191 E 700 S  
Bluffton, IN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 27. 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

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

## Funeral Service

SEP 27. 3:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall

BG

“ I remember working with Ellen at the Bargain Hut. She was such a neat lady. Sympathy to the family.  
BJ Gray



BJ Gray - September 28, 2024 at 11:08 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Ellen Reff.



September 26, 2024 at 10:38 AM

FF

“ Fred, Jim, Andrea and Brian and families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ellen Reff.

Fred, Jim, Andrea and Brian and families - September 26, 2024 at 10:38 AM

AB

“ Anna Braden purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Ellen Reff.



Anna Braden - September 24, 2024 at 05:37 PM

LK

“ My dad, Ralph Gerber, was a milk hauler and picked up the milk at Wayne and Ellen's dairy farm for many years. They invited our family to their house for a meal when i was a young girl and I remember seeing the beautiful Barbie clothes Ellen had made. Mom surprised us & bought a wedding dress for our Barbies and we were thrilled. My granddaughters still dress the Barbies in that dress, even though it's pretty tattered after all these years. You have my deepest sympathy in the passing of your dear mom. Linda Gerber Kipfer

Linda Kipfer - September 24, 2024 at 03:53 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Ellen Reff.



September 24, 2024 at 02:18 AM

LM

“ Leon & Nanci Gilbert anf Mona McCauley planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ellen Reff.

Leon & Nanci Gilbert anf Mona McCauley - September 24, 2024 at 02:18 AM

CD

“ To the family, Ellen was a wonderful lady to have known. You have our deepest sympathy on your loss. We will keep you all in our prayers. Ed & Celia Dunmoyer

Celia K Dunmoyer - September 21, 2024 at 03:22 PM

JS

“ I had the distinct privilege of working with Ellen for over 30 years at Emshwiller & Emshwiller. She was always so kind & helpful. She talked about Wayne & Pam during break times & shared her love of her family. She was such a pretty lady. My deepest sympathy to her family.

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**Jack Schwartz** - September 21, 2024 at 08:28 AM

TW

“ Our sympathy to the family at the passing of Ellen Reff. Your family loyalty and concern for her is admirable. May your memories be pleasant and precious.  
Gary and Terri Worden

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**Terri Worden** - September 20, 2024 at 01:16 PM

RW

“ I always appreciated the fact Ellen had confidence in me as a close neighbor to call when she needed help with something. She definitely had her mind set on various topics making for some interesting discussion. We miss this great neighbor.

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**Ron Westfall** - September 20, 2024 at 12:59 PM

GP

As you know, we were friends of Wayne and Ellen for many, many years. Many Sunday nights of ice cream, going to State Fair together, seeing Ellen trying to shush Wayne, when he got a bit loud, laughing together, commiserating together over crops, or telling funny cow stories. Great Times, always. Miss those happy days, and miss the Ellen I knew. Now she's restored, happy and at rest and happy with her Savior. My love and sympathy to you all. She was hard working, delightful friend!

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**Glenna Plummer** - September 25, 2024 at 01:30 PM