



## Linda L. Russ

May 28, 1941 - March 24, 2026

Linda L. Russ, 84, of Fort Wayne, passed away Tuesday morning, March 24, 2026, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Linda was born on May 28, 1941, in Bluffton to Irvin and Betty (Holmes) Nicholson, Jr. She attended Bluffton High School. She worked for Waterfield Mortgage for 17 years, retiring in 2004.

On October 21, 1982, Linda and Jay L. Russ were married in Terre Haute. The couple has lived in Fort Wayne for the last 43 years.

Linda is survived by her husband, Jay Russ of Fort Wayne, her children, M. Renee (Dale) Cox of Albion, IN, Fred (Darla) Ballenger of Indianapolis, John "Billy" (Lora) Ballenger of Van Buren, along with 12 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

She is also survived by a sister, Marcia Gregg of Fort Wayne and a brother, Daniel Nicholson of Ossian.

She is preceded in death by her parents and a sister Deborah Massey.

Funeral services will be held at 1 P.M. on Friday (March 27, 2026) at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton, with Pastor K. Paul Maurer officiating. Entombment will follow at the Northridge Community Mausoleum, located on the grounds of Fairview Cemetery.

Visitation will take place from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. on Friday at the funeral home, prior to the service.

Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association and directed through 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 family at [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Northridge Community Mausoleum located in Fairview Cemetery

3101 East St. Rd. 124  
Bluffton, In

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 27. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich,Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
(260) 824-3850  
info@thomarich.com

## Funeral Service

MAR 27. 1:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich,Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
(260) 824-3850  
info@thomarich.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Linda L. Russ*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - March 27 at 10:54 AM

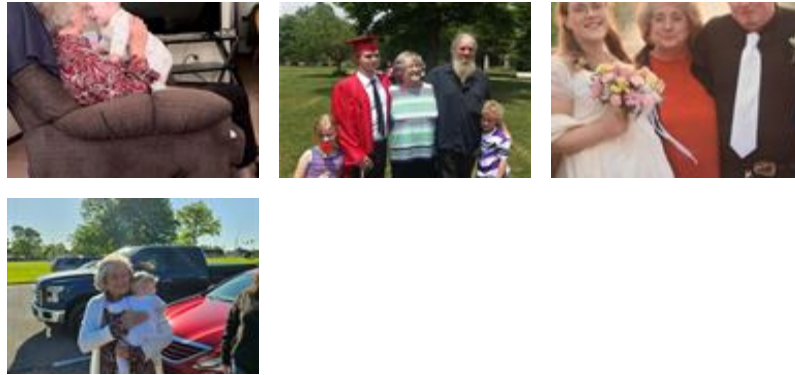


“ *Linda and I were in band together and she was always an upbeat gal. Always had a smile. My sympathy to her family at this time.*  
*Carol Lochtefeld*

Carol J Lochtefeld - March 29 at 07:53 PM



“ *4 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - March 27 at 12:12 PM



“ 39 files added to the album Life Tributes



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - March 27 at 09:08 AM



“ We have been there for each other when we needed to talk and I'll treasure the stories you shared with me. I'll treasure every memory of you playing cards with the kids and them trapping you in the middle of them so they can gang up on you and all the laughter. You was the greatest mother-in-law a girl could have. I am going to miss you so much rest in peace Mom Russ.



Darla Ballenger - March 27 at 07:03 AM



“ Susan, Cora and family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Linda L. Russ.



Susan, Cora and family - March 26 at 08:38 PM

SH

“ I loved this woman so much



Sylvia Harris - March 26 at 05:05 PM



“ In Memory - Comfort Candles was purchased for the family of Linda L. Russ.



March 25 at 10:58 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Linda L. Russ.

March 25 at 10:58 PM

LS

“ You will forever be in my heart Aunt Linda.



Lisa Small - March 25 at 05:04 PM

SM

“ *Condolences to Linda's family. I knew her from our attending Bluffton Church of Christ and also from high school. We had recently reconnected on Facebook. I shall miss her posts.*

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**Suzanne Markley** - March 25 at 04:15 PM