



## Melba N. Cole

December 30, 1935 - February 2, 2019

Melba Novina (Valentin) Cole, passed away Saturday morning, February 2, 2019, surrounded by loving family at IU North Hospital in Carmel, Indiana. Melba was born in San Francisco, CA on December 30, 1935 to Raymondo Valentin and Julia (Ulanimo) Valentin. She was raised in a close Filipino family with 5 brother and sisters. Melba finished high school and continued her education at Stockton Jr. College and American River Jr. College in Sacramento, CA. Later taking jobs at Pacific Telephone and Aerojet General Corporation. It was during this time that she met and married an Air Force Officer and Indiana native, Peter Wayne Cole. The couple moved to Wells Co. and began building a life and family together. Their children include; Elizabeth (Robert) Koehne, Matthew Wayne (Jessica) Cole and Christopher Allen (Lora) Cole, all of Indianapolis along with 8 grandchildren; Cameron Koehne, Kyle (Sydney) Koehne, Madeline Cole, Griffin Cole, Adam Turvey, Clayton Cole, Coen Cole and Allie Cole.

While building her family, she was also building her community. Melba was an avid volunteer, from Girl Scout Troop leader, Girl Scout Counsel Board member, Vacation Bible School organizer, Caylor Nickel Clinic, Creative Arts Council, and the Wells Co. Mental Health Association, and a longtime member of the Wells County Republican Party.

Some of her most rewarding times were spent with the Wells County Republicans. She had a desire and standing dedication to further her community with her service, a trait she shared with Pete. Countless hours and

energy went into Committee memberships and lifelong friendships formed here. She was a member of Wells Co. Republican Women's Club, Liberty Township Advisory Board, Delegate to the Republican State Convention, Secretary of the Republican Central Committee, among other appointments. Most recently, Melba was re-elected and sworn in as Liberty Township Advisory on December 27, 2018.

Melba's profession of faith and participation at Warren Church of Christ, especially in the last 6 years, brought her even more friendships, volunteer opportunities and endless comfort.

Her enthusiasm...her encouraging spirit...her fierce loyalty... her leadership... her contagious smile and her "up for anything" attitude to EVERYTHING Melba did will be why she is remembered and irreplaceable in our hearts. In addition to her children and grandchildren, Melba is survived by siblings: Joan Gallagher of Stockton, CA, Peter Valentin of L.A. and Linda Andersen of Turlock, CA.

Melba is preceded in death by her parents, husband Pete in 2012 and two brothers, McArthur and Raymond Valentin.

A service to celebrate Melba's life will be held at 1 P.M. on Friday (Feb. 8, 2019) at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Pastor Ethan Stivers will officiate. Entombment will take place in the Cole Family Mausoleum at Fairview Cemetery. Calling hours will be held from 4 to 8 P.M. on Thursday at the funeral home and for one hour prior to the service on Friday.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorials be made in Melba's memory to the Wells County Foundation.

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

# Cemetery Details

## Fairview Cemetery

3101 East Division Road  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
(260) 824-2832  
<http://www.themonumentcenter.com/about/cemeteries/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 7. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

## Visitation

FEB 8. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

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

## Service

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FEB 8. 1:00 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 Melba N. Cole*



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**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home** - February 07, 2019 at 04:34 PM



“ *Melba N. Cole*

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September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *Liz, Matt, and Chris,  
We will surely miss the beautiful smile, wonderful laugh, and loving heart of our Auntie Melba. Our thoughts and prayers for comfort and peace are with you.  
Love,  
Mike, Lydia and Julia*

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**Lydia Valentin** - February 08, 2019 at 02:12 PM



“ *I would like to extend my sympathy to the family of Melba Cole  
Sarah Huffman*

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**Sarah Huffman** - February 08, 2019 at 12:11 PM

C(

“ My thoughts and prayers with you, in Melba's passing ..As a neighbor she was a sweet friendly person. Sorry for your loss.

Cynthia (Biberstine)Hickey - February 07, 2019 at 03:37 PM

BJ

“ Liz, Matt, and Chris, I am saddened by your loss of Melba. We first met in the early 1970's when Mel and I got involved with Girl Scouts. She was one of the Jr.Scout leaders and I was one of the Brownie Leaders of which Liz was a member. We had lots of fun and I remember when we had the "Fly-Up" for the Brownies at the old Liberty Center School auditorium with our own little wooden bridge made especially for the occasion. After Matt and my son, Scott graduated from Southern Wells, we lost contact for awhile, then a few years back, while serving as executive director of the Wells County Mental Health, Melba and Pete started serving as board members. Melba was always a joy to work with and such a fun person. I last saw Melba at the LC Post Office a few months ago, and we chatted about normal "stuff" and she looked great at that time. I considered Melba to be a friend and will miss her and anyone who knew her, must feel that their life is richer for having that opportunity. She has finally had her "Fly-Up" and those that she loved and have gone on before her are welcoming her on the other side of the bridge. Love to all of you.~~Beryl (BJ) and Scott Gray



BJGray - February 07, 2019 at 03:21 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Melba N. Cole.*

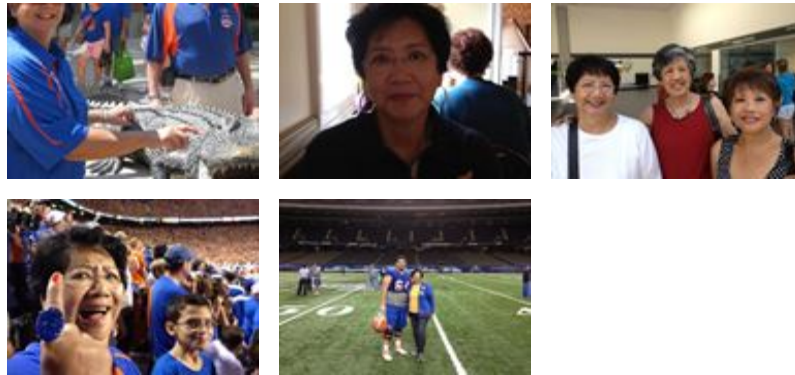


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February 07, 2019 at 12:00 PM



“ *104 files added to the album Life Tributes*



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**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home** - February 07, 2019 at 08:22 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Melba N. Cole.*



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February 07, 2019 at 08:14 AM



“ *Loving Grace was purchased for the family of Melba N. Cole.*



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February 06, 2019 at 02:48 PM



“ *Always enjoyed talking with Melba. Sorry for your loss. Our sympathy to the family.*

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**Janice and Floyd Soper** - February 05, 2019 at 08:01 PM



“ *Kids: I am in the hospital and will be unable to pay my respects. Melba was loved by all that met Melba loved her. She had a presence that was inviting to be loved by her. She is smiling and dancing now! Rick Smith*

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**Rick Smith** - February 05, 2019 at 12:21 PM



“ *Melba was a beautiful and gracious lady who was unselfish in giving her time and talents to the community she loved. She will be missed.*

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**David Daugherty** - February 05, 2019 at 12:15 PM



“ *Melba always had a smile on her face. She was my parade pal; we'd walk together in the Bluffton Street Fair parades. She was always so kind and had a passion for making our community great through politics. Melba will be missed by many!*

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**Preston T. Wright** - February 05, 2019 at 08:07 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Melba N. Cole.*



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February 05, 2019 at 06:20 AM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Melba N. Cole.*



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February 05, 2019 at 12:20 AM



“ *From the moment I met Melba I felt the specialness that was so much a part of her. I send this with much sympathy for the family.*  
*Beverly Gensic*

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**Beverly Gensic** - February 04, 2019 at 10:54 PM



“ *So many memories! Thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this time. The Lord has added another very special star to the heavens.*

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**Karen Koehne** - February 04, 2019 at 10:01 PM

KF

“ Liz, Matt, and Chris - I am sorry to hear of the loss of your mother. I have very fond memories of living “down the lane” from your family. I hadn’t seen your mother for many years but saw her last spring at Gage’s wedding. She was as beautiful and nice as I remember her. She was a proud mother as she told me about all of you, what you were doing and her grandchildren. All of you and your families are in my thoughts and prayers, she was a wonderful woman.  
Kathy Minniear Fretz

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**Kathy Minniear Fretz** - February 04, 2019 at 09:02 PM



“ Cole family: We are out of state this weekend and, therefore, will not be able to see you during visitation hours. Melba was a woman who was gracious and had a lot of class...she always had an encouraging word whenever our paths crossed. Our community is very fortunate to have had her. -Marge & Ted Ellis

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**Ted Ellis** - February 04, 2019 at 07:07 PM



“ My deepest sympathies. Melba and I worked together for a short while at Dr. Willits DDS and I will never forget her positive attitude, helpfulness and laughter. She will be missed.

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**Deb Perry** - February 04, 2019 at 06:57 PM

ME

“ We love you, dear family. Our hearts are broken, along with yours, and we lift you up in love and prayers, and wish you peace. God's peace surpasses all understanding! Melba was a one-of-a-kind, beautiful, spirited lady, so full of love, life, joy, and compassion. She will be greatly missed, and I am so grateful she is my family.  
Melanie Petree



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Melanie - February 04, 2019 at 06:21 PM

PC

“ Phyllis, Melanie, Cole, Morgan, Tim, Lib, Caroline purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Melba N. Cole.



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Phyllis, Melanie, Cole, Morgan, Tim, Lib, Caroline - February 04, 2019 at 06:14 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Melba N. Cole.



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February 04, 2019 at 05:35 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Melba N. Cole.*



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February 04, 2019 at 10:27 AM



“ *Melba was a lovely person and my father, Dale Redding, just thought the world of her. He was Precinct Committee person for Liberty Township at one time and I know she got involved with politics around that time. She was loved by many and will be greatly missed.*

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**Dian Mynatt** - February 03, 2019 at 01:28 PM



“ *Sorry to hear about your loss, praying for you and your family members.*

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**David Shepherd** - February 02, 2019 at 08:22 PM