



Sharon E. Gentis

February 22, 1939 - July 2, 2025

Sharon E. Gentis, 86, of Bluffton, passed away Wednesday evening, July 2, 2025 at Christian Care Retirement Community, where she had resided the past few years. Sharon was born on February 22, 1939, in Wells County, Indiana, to John and Helen (Clark) Gregg.

Sharon attended both Petroleum High School and Butler High School, and she made friends as easily as she made memories. As a young girl, she spent her time working at the Macy's Drive-In and forging lifelong friendships with her beloved classmates from the Butler, Indiana and Wells County areas. Sharon prioritized relationships above all else, and to simply be in her presence was confirmation that you mattered to her. Her connections were instantaneous and genuine.

On March 30, 1956, in Bluffton, Sharon married her partner for life, Bill Gentis, and they spent the next 65 years building an admirable life together in Wells County. For many of those years, Sharon and Bill co-owned Bluffton Tire (Goodyear) Store, all while raising six rambunctious children. Later, when the kids had grown and flown the family nest, they wintered in Orange City, Florida for twenty years or more, but they always called Wells County their home.

Sharon was a generous caregiver, not only to her family, but also to many local individuals, and she truly loved making life more enjoyable for those she held dear. She hosted entertaining family dinners, and she was known for her delicious homemade noodles. A lover of flowers and birds, she was also an accomplished oil and watercolor artist, even owning her own art studio for a short time on Johnson Street in Bluffton.

Sharon was a member of the Bluffton First Church of Christ and a former member of the Domestic Church of Christ. She was also a longtime member of the local Eastern Star and served as past Matron. Her commitment to service and adventure was evident in the way she approached every opportunity in life. At one point, she even left her mark on the working world as a convoy driver for oversized loads! Sharon was truly the life of every

party, but her lasting legacy is her beautiful family.

Known as “Grandma Giggles,” she was a “Fierce” boat captain for her many grandchildren, who have been blessed to experience the death-defying tubing maneuvers on Little Barbee Lake every summer. Sharon adored her children and grandchildren and especially loved the memories created in that little cottage on the channel. Her infectious laugh, radiant smile, and sincere kindness will be remembered by all who were honored to spend time in her presence. She was a remarkable woman, full of love and light and loyal hospitality.

Sharon was preceded in death by her precious husband, Bill (also known as Sugarburger, Super Bill, or Willy). It is likely they are together at a table somewhere in Heaven now, playing cards again, and reminiscing about all those carefully curated family memories.

Survivors include their children: Kurt (Susie) Gentis, Sheila (David) Herdman, Kelly (Robin) Gentis, Kerry (Michelle) Gentis, along with their sons-in-law, Dan Dunwiddie and Joe Collins, all of Bluffton.

Sharon was a loving grandmother to 17 grandchildren: Dan Gentis, Kristy Rinn, Celeste Paquette, Kristen Adam, Ryan Dunwiddie, April Schisler, Mia Gentis, Kit Gentis, Tia Osborn, Lia Warren, Alan Elliott, Andrea Balkcom, Abby Holloway, Maria Bates, Emilee Armstrong, and Austin Gentis, as well as 34 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by a brother, John (Deloris) Gregg, brother-in-law, Rex (Martha) Gentis, and step-sister Donna (Kirkwood) Cochran.

Her parents preceded her in death, as did her step-father Ray Kirkwood, daughter Ann Dunwiddie, daughter Melissa Collins, granddaughter Jaime Gentis, great-granddaughter Grace Rinn, siblings Ralph Davison and Jone Oman, brother-in-law Jim Oman, and step-brother Kenny Kirkwood.

Sharon loved her new home at Christian Care and spoke highly of the staff, their friendship, and the care they so lovingly provided. We are so thankful for the many dear friendships that developed during her relatively short time there. Nellie Sleppy, Mary Jane Hamilton, Diane Johnson, and Frederica DeBolt, along with many others, will forever hold a special place in our family’s hearts.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 A.M. on Tuesday, (July 8, 2025) at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral home in Bluffton, with Rick Oatess officiating. Burial will follow at Six Mile Cemetery in Bluffton.

Visitation will be held from 3 P.M. to 8 P.M. on Monday, (July 7, 2025) at the funeral home and for one hour prior to the service.

Memorials may be made in Sharon's memory to the First Church of Christ or to Helping Hands Family Resource Center, both in Bluffton, Indiana.

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.

Cemetery Details

Six Mile Cemetery

4795 SE State Road 116
Bluffton, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 7. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Visitation

JUL 8. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

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

Funeral Service

JUL 8. 10:30 AM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
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Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Sharon E. Gentis*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - July 07, 2025 at 03:51 PM

CD

To the Gentis family: Sharon was a beautiful lady inside and out, she was loved by all and will be greatly missed. I'm sure is very happy in her heavenly home. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

Cindy Dillon - July 08, 2025 at 07:06 PM

HV

“ *To all the Gentis family...so sorry to hear of mom Sharon's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and yours as you celebrate her life in the years ahead through the precious memories you made with her. Howard and Makaye Vaughn*

Howard and Makaye Vaughn - July 21, 2025 at 04:19 PM

JS

“ *So sorry for your loss Kurt and Susie. She is in heaven with Bill. They are probably playing cards with my Mom and Dad. May God be with you and your family. Steve and Julie Studebaker*



Julie Studebaker - July 07, 2025 at 10:52 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Sharon E. Gentis.*



July 07, 2025 at 12:35 PM

AW

“ Adam & Heather (Roush) Weis purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Sharon E. Gentis.



Adam & Heather (Roush) Weis - July 07, 2025 at 11:24 AM

AW

“ Adam & Heather (Roush) Weis planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sharon E. Gentis.

Adam & Heather (Roush) Weis - July 07, 2025 at 11:24 AM

TM

“ Our Family and the Gentis family used to do alot of fun things together. Sharon was always such a sweet loving lady. She will be missed. Prayers for comfort for the Gentis family 🙏



Teresa Moser - July 06, 2025 at 07:34 PM

SJ

“ Such a sweet sweet Lady. Always had a smile on her face and a kind word for others.

Sara Johnson - July 06, 2025 at 03:21 PM

CW

“ Sheila, Im just heart broken for you and your family. I loved your mom she was such a wonderful fun loving person. It was my pleasure to have known her briefly. God be with you and your family as you will miss her so much.

Chris Wickliffe - July 06, 2025 at 11:36 AM



“ 153 files added to the album Life Tributes



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - July 05, 2025 at 04:21 PM

SK

“ Kurt, Susie and Family. I don't think I ever knew your mom, but from reading the obituary I'm sure our paths crossed at some point. Sounds like she was a wonderful person. You're in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

Steve Kunkel - July 05, 2025 at 02:34 PM

OH

“ of us at Helping Hands purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Sharon E. Gentis.



of us at Helping Hands - July 05, 2025 at 11:57 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sharon E. Gentis.



July 04, 2025 at 10:35 AM

LR

“ Love Hayley and Randy purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Sharon E. Gentis.



Love Hayley and Randy - July 04, 2025 at 08:45 AM

KR

“ She was a lovely lady who was a great longtime friend of our family's. We will pray for your family at this great loss.

Kayleen Janele Reusser - July 04, 2025 at 07:44 AM

QD

“ A beautifully written tribute for a real life angel on earth. Heaven is rejoicing this day. We will miss this sweet and welcoming face that was always so kind and full of love toward us. Until we meet again, sweet Sharon. ❤️ Alex, Quincy, and Sunday DeKemper

Quincy DeKemper - July 03, 2025 at 07:46 PM

NC

“ A great Godley woman, she had love for everyone, even if you wronged her. Though I walk through the shadow of death i will fear no evil, for thy rod and thy staff comfort me

Norman D Coffield - July 03, 2025 at 05:44 PM

DG

“ Saddened to learn of Sharon's passing. Sharon was a remarkable lady. She just never seemed to slow down. Always full of stories. Sharon will be truly missed by all the people she met. The Gentis family will be in our prayers. Dan and Darlene Gerdom

Dan Gerdom - July 03, 2025 at 05:40 PM

NH

“ She was a very special lady and I know you will miss her. My mother always admired her, and they were good friends sending prayers and love to her precious family.

Nancy Reusser Halstead - July 03, 2025 at 05:27 PM

DN

“ Dwight & Nancy lit a candle in memory of Sharon Gentis



Dwight & Nancy - July 03, 2025 at 05:10 PM

AB

“ I love you, grandma! Thank you for the cherished memories, stories, and for being the strong woman you taught me to be.

Andrea Balkcom - July 03, 2025 at 04:13 PM



“ I will remember her contagious laugh, zest for life, unwavering love and kindness. Greatful for the memories Grandma Giggles.

Leann Nash - July 03, 2025 at 03:53 PM

LW

“ I am so grateful to my Aunt Sharon for many wonderful memories. Her steadfast faith, love for her family and friends, incredible adventures, great stories, legendary homemade noodles and delicious no bake cookies and a signature joyful laugh that just makes you happy. Her legacy will live on in all of us. Kurt, Kelly, Shelia and Kerry, we will keep you and your families in our hearts and prayers. Lana & Garrett

Lana Wietholter - July 03, 2025 at 03:19 PM

LS

“ This makes my heart sad. She was one of my favorite clients, neighbor, I just loved her!! But I know she is rejoicing with her daughters, Bill and the rest who passed to soon. My condolences to the entire Gentis Family, she was a lovely person



Lisa Satterfield - July 03, 2025 at 07:58 AM