



## Vernita Margaret Koester

February 1, 1925 - January 24, 2024

Vernita M. Koester of St. Wendel, IN passed away peacefully at her home on Wed. January 24, 2024 surrounded by all of her family.

She had a love for playing Clabber, card games, and Bingo. She took pride in her lawn and mowed her grass until the age of 96. She loved celebrating her loved ones by always mailing them cards for their birthdays and special occasions.

Vernita was born to Amelia and Andrew Fehrenbacher on February 1st, 1925 – missing her 99th birthday by one week. She was a Rosie the Riveter for the WWII effort and then worked at Stahl's Meat Packing Co. and was a mail carrier after. She then worked alongside her husband, Oscar, to handle bookkeeping for the family farm and business. After the death of her first husband, Melvin Helfrich, in 1947 she married Oscar Koester in 1950 and raised 8 children.

She is preceded in death by Oscar, her son Larry, and great grandson Cameron Born. As well as her three brothers, Harold, Melvin, and Joe Fehrenbacher and one sister, Helen Lyons.

She is survived by her 5 daughters, Carol (Kenny) Martin, Janice (Danny) Schmitt, Marlene (Kenny) Kissel, Donna (Rick) Stevens, Connie (Randy)

Vickery, and 2 sons, Joe (Becky) Koester, Johnnie (Jeane) Koester, and daughter in law Coral (Larry) Koester, as well as 26 grandchildren, 62 great grandchildren and 6 great great grandchildren, leaving a legacy of 142 whom she was very, very proud of. Vernita will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

She also was a member of the KSJ Ladies Auxiliary and the VFW Ladies Auxiliary.

A very special thank you to her granddaughter, Melanie Blaize, for her loving care over the last three years, as well as the ladies of Gentiva Hospice and her card playing friends throughout the years.

There will be a Mass of Christian Burial held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, January 27, 2024 at St. Wendel Catholic Church, Rev. Ed Schnur officiating. Burial will follow in the St. Wendel Church Cemetery.

Friends may visit with the family from 2:00 until 8:00 PM on Friday at Pierre Funeral Home, 2601 W. Franklin Street and from 9:30 AM until service time at St. Wendel Catholic Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee or to St. Wendel Catholic Church, 10542 W. Boonville New Harmony Road, Evansville, IN 47720.

Condolences may be made online at [www.pierrefuneralhome.com](http://www.pierrefuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## St. Wendel Church Cemetery

10542 W. Boonville-New Harmony Road  
Evansville, IN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **26**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Pierre Funeral Home  
2601 West Franklin Street  
Evansville, IN 47712  
(812) 423-6471  
info@pierrefuneralhome.com  
<https://www.pierrefuneralhome.com>

## Visitation

JAN **27**. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Wendel Catholic Church  
10542 W. Boonville-New Harmony Road  
Evansville, IN

## Mass of Christian Burial

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JAN 27. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Wendel Catholic Church  
10542 W. Boonville-New Harmony Road  
Evansville, IN

# Tribute Wall

CF

“ *My condolences to Vernita's family and friends.*

*Eternal rest grant unto Vernita, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*



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**Cathy Funkhouser** - January 30, 2024 at 11:54 AM

JR

“ *Vernita was the last of mom and dad's butchering buddies! I remember her as a beautiful, hard working and fun person to be around. My sympathies to the family.*

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**Jalane Relleke** - January 29, 2024 at 08:38 AM

VB

“ *Victoria Schmitt and John Backes planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Vernita Margaret Koester.*

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**Victoria Schmitt and John Backes** - January 26, 2024 at 04:08 PM

VB

“ *Victoria Schmitt and John Backes purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Vernita Margaret Koester.*



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**Victoria Schmitt and John Backes** - January 26, 2024 at 04:08 PM

EK

“ So sorry to hear about Vernita. She was the sweetest lady. Kenny and I used to meet the cousins once a month for lunch.  
Elizabeth Owen Koester

Elizabeth Owen Koester - January 26, 2024 at 11:13 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Vernita Margaret Koester.



January 25, 2024 at 09:31 PM

CS

“ We are so sorry to hear of the loss of your sweet mother. Your family will be in our thoughts and prayers. Patrick & Carolyn Scheller



carolyn scheller - January 25, 2024 at 08:19 PM

CF

“ Eternal rest grant unto Vernita, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen  
My sympathy to Vernita's family and friends.

Cathy Funkhouser - January 25, 2024 at 06:33 PM

LS

“ I wish to my sympathy and prayers to Vernita’s family. I know them from St Wendel. Sister Laura Marie Schmitt

Laura Schmitt - January 25, 2024 at 04:29 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Vernita Margaret Koester.



January 25, 2024 at 03:17 PM

LF

“ Love, Paul, Elle, Bev & our families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Vernita Margaret Koester.

Love, Paul, Elle, Bev & our families - January 25, 2024 at 01:41 PM

LF

“ Love, Paul, Elle, Bev & our families purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Vernita Margaret Koester.



Love, Paul, Elle, Bev & our families - January 25, 2024 at 01:41 PM

RN

“ Koester family, So very sorry for your loss of this beautiful lady. Thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Cherish your memories.

*Reatha Niemeier Nurrenbern*

Reatha Nurrenbern - January 25, 2024 at 10:51 AM

MF

“ My family and I will truly miss Aunt Vernita. Over the 60+ years of my life, she has been a loving source of strength and compassion. For well over four years, she weekly visited my Dad in the nursing home, always sneaking in a McDouble cheeseburger for him. During our visits, she would always proudly mention the new family arrivals and the latest total number of the clan. We will miss sharing time with her. Our sincere sympathies to her entire family. Rest in peace Aunt Vernita. Mel (Butch) Fehrenbacher, Dolly, Melanie and Ty

Mel Fehrenbacher - January 25, 2024 at 09:23 AM

DA

“ Diane Angermeier lit a candle in memory of Vernita Margaret Koester



Diane Angermeier - January 25, 2024 at 06:04 AM

MM

“ Margie Martínez planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Vernita Margaret Koester.

Margie Martínez - January 25, 2024 at 12:07 AM

MM

“ Margie Martínez purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Vernita Margaret Koester.



Margie Martínez - January 25, 2024 at 12:07 AM

JO

“ Joanie purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Vernita Margaret Koester.



Joanie - January 24, 2024 at 09:27 PM

JO

“ Joanie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Vernita Margaret Koester.

Joanie - January 24, 2024 at 09:27 PM

KP

“ Kevin Pate purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Vernita Margaret Koester.



Kevin Pate - January 24, 2024 at 08:37 PM

JS

“ We have many fond memories of Vernita. She was always willing to help in any way she could. Always friendly and full of energy. She will be missed.

Janet Schneider - January 24, 2024 at 08:31 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Vernita Margaret Koester.



January 24, 2024 at 07:04 PM

CW

“ Chris and Joy Wolsiefer planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Vernita Margaret Koester.

Chris and Joy Wolsiefer - January 24, 2024 at 07:04 PM

LB

“ Had the best time when younger, Tammy and I would go to Bingo with her at Vanderburgh Fairgrounds we would be busy opening pull tabs and trying to stay on top of all the bingo cards of hers in front of us. Rest in peace you had a long life to enjoy.

lisa bunnage - January 24, 2024 at 05:52 PM

CL

“ She was an amazing lady, honored to have known her. Cindy Seibert Lang

Cindy Seibert Lang - January 24, 2024 at 04:59 PM