



Gayle Irene Lilly

November 26, 1933 - February 7, 2022

Gayle Irene (Rineer, Connell) Lilly of Holly, (11.26.33) passed away on Monday, February 7, 2022. Gayle was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, the daughter of the late Philip and Hazel Rineer. In addition to her parents, Gayle was preceded in death by 17 siblings, first husband William Connell, her beloved son Michael (Robin) Connell. She was employed at Kelsey Hayes for many years and was the union shop steward. Gayle loved everything Christmas. It was her favorite time of year. She would decorate a tree in every room of her house and was featured in an article in the Jackson Gazette. She opened up a store-front called "Granny's Goodies" in Jackson, MI that sold all things Christmas and holiday gifts. She loved to dance, watch Western's and give hugs to everyone she met.

She loved her grandkids and thought the most important job of all was being a mother. Gayle went on to foster 41 babies during her lifetime. On May 6, 1978, Gayle married her sweetheart, Lawrence Lilly, in Clarkston MI. They enjoyed their 44 years together making memories with their blended family. They later moved to the Holly area and made special friendships with George and Diane Kullis, Reisa Hamilton and Velma Dennison.

Gayle is survived by her husband, Lawrence Lilly; children; Melanie (John) Connell-Nivelt, Mark (Theresa) Connell and Martin Connell; step-children, Lawrence (Linda) Lilly Jr., Gary Lilly and Linda Lilly; grandchildren Blake, Nick,

Chelsea, Nicole, Justin, Jason, Larry, Lauren, Michael, Olathe and Eleanor; many great-grandchildren and beloved nieces and nephews. In keeping with Gayle's wishes, cremation has taken place. A graveside ceremony will be held at a later time. Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorial contributions to Meals on Wheels or Christmas in Action (Holly). www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com

Cemetery Details

Lakeside Cemetery

Holly, MI

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

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“ *She was a big sister to me. I will miss her so much. Her gift to me was being my friend and allowing me to spend time with her.* ”

Reisa Hamilton - February 10, 2022 at 10:06 PM