



## Carolyn Hiller Brines

December 11, 1936 - February 2, 2025

Carolyn Hiller Brines of Cadillac passed away February 2, 2025. She was 88.

Carolyn was born to Howard and Marjorie Moreland on December 11, 1936 in Quincy, Illinois. As the 1000th baby born at St. Mary's Hospital, she was gifted with a complete layette, thus beginning her career as a fashionista.

Carolyn was an "army brat" and grew up in Kewanee, Illinois; Rolla, Missouri; Olympia, Washington; Oberstdorf, Germany; and Robinson, Illinois. After graduating from Robinson High School, she majored in music and business at Indiana State University. There, she met and married her husband of nearly 70 years, Milo D. Brines. Together they raised four children in Flint, and later, Cadillac, Michigan.

During the 60's and early 70's, Carolyn was a stay-at-home mom. She accepted a job as a teacher's aid with the Cadillac Public Schools in the mid-70's. She switched careers in the 80's and became a legal secretary at Samardich, Benson, McCurdy & Wotila, P.C. and worked there for 16 years. In her first year at the firm she was given the "Legal Secretary of the Year" award.

As a talented musician, Carolyn studied piano in the States and Germany. In the 1950's she received a 1st in the District Finals competition. She accompanied the Cadillac Community Chorus for many years and served as

its president, played piano at local restaurants, and volunteered her musical talents at area retirement homes. A life-long Methodist, she taught Sunday School and started a Bible Story Hour at Atherton UMC in Flint, and taught Sunday School and directed both Junior Choir and Cherub Choir at Cadillac UMC. Carolyn served as treasurer of the Cadillac Area Artists Association and displayed many of her original paintings at the annual Cadillac Art Fair. She was also a member of Philharmonic Club and the Legal Association of Women, as well as a past secretary of the CASA sports organization.

Carolyn is survived by her husband, Milo, and her children: Teresa Brines (Tom Crabb), David Brines (Tracy, dec.), Robert Brines (Joanne), and Michael Brines (Michelle), as well as her grandchildren, Margaret Crabb (Joe Kabourek), Alex Crabb, Jessica (Noah) Marshall-Rashid, Katherine Brines (Magnus Frisak), Michael Brines (Amber Parsons), David Brines, Jacquelyn Brines, Matthew Brines and Renee Brines. She also leaves behind six great-grandchildren: Milo, Nina, Willem, Harrison, Arlo and Maya.

Carolyn was outgoing and funny, the life of the party. She loved fashion and shoes. She had great warmth and feeling for others and her life was filled with family and friends. Many have remarked on her talent, her kindness, and her dedication to her family. We will miss her.

A memorial service will be held 11:00 AM, Saturday, May 10, 2025 at the United Methodist Church in Cadillac with a luncheon to follow. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Hope Chest Charity. (<https://www.hopchestcharity.org/donate>) An online guestbook is available at [www.petersonfh.com](http://www.petersonfh.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAY 10. 11:00 AM (ET)

United Methodist Church of Cadillac  
1020 E Division St  
Cadillac, MI 49601-8537  
(231) 775-5362

# Tribute Wall

CW

“*Connie W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carolyn Hiller Brines.*

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**Connie W.** - May 15, 2025 at 03:23 PM

MT

“*So sorry to hear of the passing of Carolyn. I played on coach Brines first varsity football team at NW 1964. In 1967 we had our first baby, Carolyn gave us enough baby cloths until our son was two years old She was a very special lady To coach Brines and family we are thinking of you Remember the good times*

*Mike and DeLaine Thomas*

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**Mike Thomas** - May 10, 2025 at 01:29 PM

RF

“*Carolyn was cheerful all the time. I enjoyed the times she visited Green Acres Retirement and entertained the residences while my mom lived there. She played all the beautiful songs all the residence remembered by heart. Thank you Carolyn.*

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**Ruthann Fuentes** - May 02, 2025 at 11:54 AM

NN

“*Carolyn was what I refer to as "A Sweetie" her smile radiated everywhere she was present. She loved little children and often volunteered to watch them during the church service. There were several times Carolyn would play the piano for our church service. She truly was a sweetie. nick nelson*

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**nick nelson** - April 11, 2025 at 11:52 AM

DC

“ Carolyn was a ray of sunshine to Cadillac Philharmonic Club. She was a member since 2004 and made wonderful music for us over the years. Sometimes before our luncheon started she would as lib some favorite songs on the piano just to make people feel good. We will miss her.

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**Dianne Case** - February 14, 2025 at 12:01 PM

JS

“ I served with Carolyn on the Cadillac Area Artists Associaten board for several years. She was always helpful and made a great secretary. -- Jim Smith

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**Jim Smith** - February 12, 2025 at 04:10 PM

KW

“ My sincere condolences to the Brines family. I hold onto very wonderful memories of your mother and wife. May you find peace and strength together and know how many lives were blessed by Carolyn.

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**KENNETH WOHLFORD** - February 08, 2025 at 11:36 AM

JC

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.

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**John & Linda Coffell** - February 08, 2025 at 08:09 AM

GS

“ So sorry to learn of Carolyn's death. Enjoyed working with her at Samardich's office. She was always for a "break." She will be missed.

Gayle Stuck

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**GAYLE E STUCK** - February 08, 2025 at 08:08 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Carolyn Hiller Brines.



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February 04, 2025 at 06:20 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Carolyn Hiller Brines.

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February 04, 2025 at 06:20 PM

LB

“ When I was a kid and we came to your house for a visit I was always fascinated that I could hum a song and then she would play it on the piano.

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**Libby Beaty** - February 04, 2025 at 03:36 PM

LB

“ Libby B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carolyn Hiller Brines.

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**Libby B.** - February 04, 2025 at 02:52 PM