



## Wilda Jean Hillman

January 6, 1923 - January 20, 2018

Wilda J. Hillman of Cadillac passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Saturday, January 20, 2018. She was 95 years old.

Wilda was born January 6, 1923 in Cadillac to Thomas Glen and Alice Mae (Hayes) Miller. Always outgoing and friendly she loved spending time in her family's restaurant, Miller's Cafe located in downtown Cadillac. She graduated from Cadillac High School in 1941. On August 21, 1942 she married John H. Hillman in Enid, Oklahoma where John was stationed in the Air Force. They shared 72 wonderful years together. Wilda earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Central Michigan University while raising a family of 6 children. She was a caring and devoted teacher in Cadillac for 24 years teaching at Hollister, St. Ann's, Forest View and Lincoln Schools.

Her love of the community, arts, and culture were evident. She supported many causes. Wilda was a member of the Cadillac Philharmonic Club and Chorus, Women's Club, Cadillac Country Club, Zion Lutheran Church Council and Committees, Zion Lutheran Choir, Scandinavian Club, and Past President of the Women's ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America).

Wilda was an avid reader, bridge player, crossword puzzle wiz, and lifelong learner. She loved spending time with her family, golfing, baking, volunteering, traveling to Europe, and winters in Arizona and Florida. Wilda will be remembered by her love and devotion to her family and faith, her ever present smile, words of encouragement, generous heart, sense of humor, fun loving

nature, and tremendous strength and determination.

She is survived by a son, Tom (Molly) Hillman of Roscommon, daughters Deb Barney of Cadillac, Liz (Leonard) Terranova of Grand Rapids, Martha (Bill) Norman of Grand Rapids, daughter in law, Sheri Hillman of Cadillac; grandchildren: Andy, Laurie, Sarah, Mary Ann, Katie, Susie, Erik, Patrick, Courtney, and Shelby; great grandchildren: Zachary, David, Blake, Grace, Stefan, Lucy, Ella, Olivia, Grant, Luke, Mitchell, and Jack; a brother Tom (Diane) Miller of Valparaiso, Florida. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband John, sons Philip and Tim. Wilda will be greatly missed by all who loved her!

A Memorial Service will be held 1:00 PM Saturday, February 17, 2018 at the Zion Lutheran Church in Cadillac with Reverend Scott Torkko officiating. Burial will be at Maple Hill Cemetery in Cadillac.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Zion Lutheran Church in Cadillac or to Hospice of Michigan. An online guestbook is available at [www.petersonfh.com](http://www.petersonfh.com).

# Tribute Wall

TL

“ So very sorry to hear about your Mom . Phil & Shirley were great friends for many years . If one of you could call me @ 231-920-3200 I have a something from your family that should be returned to all the siblings .

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**Tami Laurent** - March 17, 2018 at 03:53 PM

AL

“ Mrs. Hillman was my favorite teacher at Forest View in first grade, 1972. We just moved from Indiana, and she made me feel so special. I loved her bee-hive hairdo. After 22 years in corporate HR, it was Mrs. Hillman who inspired me to become a teacher, now in my seventh year of teaching elementary school. I talked with Mrs. Hillman about five years ago, and we had such a sweet talk over the phone. Sweet memories, how they linger.

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**Allen Long** - February 17, 2018 at 11:43 AM

JC

“ We're thinking of you and wishing you comfort and peace. Extending our sincere sympathy and friendship.

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**John & Linda Coffell** - February 10, 2018 at 04:46 AM

JH

“ Mrs. Hillman was my 2nd grade teacher at St. Ann's. She was so very kind. My dad passed that year and I remember her helping me through my grief.

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**Joanna Hodges** - February 05, 2018 at 09:43 AM

DB

“ *Martha, I am sorry to hear about your mom's passing. She was a wonderful woman who lived a good, long life. She impacted many people and was a good friend to my mom. I know the care you gave and the devotion you showed to her in her later years was of great comfort to her.*

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**Dave Brines** - February 03, 2018 at 07:36 PM

PL

“ *I will never forget " Mrs. Hillman as my 2nd grade teacher at St. Ann's School. She was a gentle and caring person who treated her students as if they were her own children. She was soft spoken and her students always looked forward to seeing her every school day.*

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**Pat Leavell** - February 03, 2018 at 06:46 PM

GB

“ *My favorite teacher. Taught me so much more than reading, writing and math. She inspired many. I still have a book signed by her from 4th grade at Forest Viee.*

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**Goldie Beebe** - February 03, 2018 at 08:44 AM