



## Wilma Norabel Gaylord

September 25, 1932 - August 25, 2023

Wilma Norabel Gaylord of Harrietta passed away, Friday, August 25, 2023 at home. She was 90.

Wilma was born September 25, 1932 in Harrietta to William Reeves and Myrtle Belle (Reames) Waters.

Wilma attended Harrietta Schools then graduated Mesick Schools in 1950 and attended Kirtland Community College in Cadillac. She worked for the United State Postal Service for 33 years, spending the last 15 years as postmaster. She belonged to two Post Master organizations, NAPUS and League of Postmasters and received the Postmaster of Year award from the Michigan Branch of League of Postmasters. She had also been employed at Brastrom's Store for 17 years. Wilma also received the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Michigan State Police for buying a 30.06 gun in church from the man that was holding them hostage.

She was a member of the Rebekah's and Odd Fellows lodge of Mesick. Wilma also belonged to the Sherman Chapter of the Order of Eastern Stars #197 and had served as the musician in all the organizations, both at the state and district levels. She was member of the Harrietta Civic Club, Harrietta Area Red Hat Honey Bees and the Ruby Red Hats in Cadillac. Wilma was a trustee for Slagle Township for over 20 years. She attended Harrietta United Methodist Church and filled in on the piano there and at St. Edwards when

needed. Wilma was an avid NASCAR fan; her favorite driver was # 24, Jeff Gordon. After retirement she enjoyed traveling all of the world and United States with her husband, Bill.

On April 7, 1956 in Harrietta she married William Ralph Gaylord and he survives her along with their children: Terry (Tammy) Gaylord of Weaverville, North Carolina, Trent Gaylord (Connie Kelly) of Grand Rapids, and Tammy (Woody) Perkins of Fort Worth, Texas; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Her niece and nephew: Duane Waters and family and Christina Mae Horrigan, III and family; and special Angel, Norma (Martin) Kangas of Harrietta.

Wilma was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, William Waters and a daughter-in-law, Lanice Gaylord.

Memorial services will be held 11:00 AM Wednesday, August 30, 2023 at Peterson Funeral and Cremation Services in Cadillac with Judy Coffey officiating. Friends may meet the family from 10:00 AM until services Wednesday at the funeral home. Her finally resting place will be Sixteen Cemetery in Harrietta.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Harrietta Historical Museum, Hospice of Michigan Cadillac Chapter, and Cadillac Area Land Conservancy or to the Wurtsmith Air Museum in Oscoda that was originally named after Wilma's Uncle Walter Reames. An online guestbook is available at [www.petersonfh.com](http://www.petersonfh.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **30**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Peterson Funeral and Cremation Services  
205 East Cass Street  
Cadillac, MI 49601  
[info@petersonfh.com](mailto:info@petersonfh.com)

## Memorial Service

AUG **30**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Peterson Funeral and Cremation Services  
205 East Cass Street  
Cadillac, MI 49601

# Tribute Wall

RH

“ Our prayers go out to Bill, Terry, Trent and Tammy may you be comforted by the lords touch  
The Hawkins Family

Russell Hawkins - August 29, 2023 at 12:10 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Wilma Norabel Gaylord.



August 29, 2023 at 09:15 AM

AM

“ BRAVO to a long successful life well lived Wilma! Please accept my condolences Bill and family.  
Love,  
Amy Kerzich Davidson

Amy - August 28, 2023 at 10:10 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Wilma Norabel Gaylord.

August 28, 2023 at 06:59 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Wilma Norabel Gaylord.*



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August 28, 2023 at 06:59 PM



“ *My thoughts and Prayers gout to Bill and the entire Gaylord family. From my time living in Harrietta as a child and throughout my life since moving back, Wilma was always so kind to my family and I. If we missed church she would always send us a bulletin in mail so we knew what was going on but also to ensure we knew we were part of a family and we were missed. She always gave all she had to help take care of the community. She was an amazing lady her love for our community and all who live here will live on forever. She will be missed by us all.*

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**Joe Portwrfield** - August 27, 2023 at 11:32 AM



“ *I'm sad to hear this news and send my deepest condolences to Bill and their children. Wilma led a remarkable life! She was one of the kindest and most selfless people we had the privilege of knowing in Harrietta. She was a good friend to my Mom (Nellie). She always there for my Mom and Dad (Tony) and anyone who needed it. She truly brought the light and love of Jesus into all the lives around her. May she enjoy her eternal rewards.*

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**Jeanne Tarantino** - August 26, 2023 at 11:52 AM

BH

*I am so sorry for the family and friends . She brings tears to my eyes. Wilma was a very nice lady She would do any thing for any body. Wilma was a very Close friend to my mother Virginia Hennigan(chandler) Wilma and Virginia were close friends growing up . Bill , Terry ,Trent Tammy . I feel your pain Keep her memories with you my love to all of you*

**Barb chandler Haggerty** - August 26, 2023 at 01:09 PM

TM

“ *Sending love and prayers to Bill, Tammy, Trent, Terry, and to your extended family. Wilma was a blessing to all who knew her—like an angel on earth. Her kindness, can-do attitude, and dedication to family, friends and community was unmatched. She was one of my Mom’s (Nella Kerzich) very best friends, and helped Mama navigate my Dad’s declining health and death, my Mom’s own health issues—but also brought so much joy and friendship throughout the years. May God’s perpetual light shine upon Wilma, and may you all be comforted by her beautiful life well lived. She followed the path of a true Christian, and we were all blessed to have known her.*

**Teresa Kerzich Meehan** - August 26, 2023 at 11:31 AM



“ *So very sorry to hear of Wilma's passing. She was one of the first people I met when I moved to the area and she always had a smile. She played the piano at our wedding. The family will be in our thoughts. Ray & Deb Freeman*

**Deb Freeman** - August 26, 2023 at 11:18 AM

RA

“*Sad to hear of another Mesick High schoolmate passing. I well remember Wilma and Bill from my early days there. (Wilma was 2 years ahead of me) I recall her as a quiet, gentle young lady. My sincere condolences to Bill and the family.*

*RIP, Wilma; you've earned it...*

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**Ron Altman** - August 26, 2023 at 10:43 AM

EM

“*Wilma was a long time family friend who was so full of area history and helpful with answers. Just spoke with Genealogical Society Friday that I would contact her about Hillside Cemetery. I am so sorry for your loss, Bill and family. She was a wonderful, friendly and kind lady. I have always admired her. PEACE to each of you.*

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**ELSIE L MOORE** - August 26, 2023 at 10:24 AM

ER

*Oh, Wilma, what a treasure you have been to me! What a precious and special friendship from the beginning. Born on the same block, you beat me by two months coming into this world, and now you have gone on ahead to the next. So like you to accomplish that, too, with grace and quiet determination. God rest you, my dear companion and friend, and bring you well-deserved rest and reward for your goodness and kindness to so many.*

*Growing up in little Harrietta, I think both you and I knew every house, road, stone and tree. I am so in admiration of the wonderful trips you and your dear Bill enjoyed through the years (and all the lovely gifts you brought us from them.) Yet in our many get-togethers in the later years it was the persons and places of our youth that we cherished. "I've had a wonderful life!" you often declared--and a steadfast faith I so often witnessed. Our hearts now and prayers are with Bill and your dear family. God be with each one. Much love, Don and Elsie (Mannor) Randall*

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**Elsie M. Randall** - September 05, 2023 at 04:15 PM