



Ellen Loraine Heinichen (Butler)

September 4, 1949 - May 28, 2026

Ellen Loraine Heinichen (Butler), age 76 of South Haven, passed away on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo, MI. She was born on September 4, 1949, to Lewis and Donna Butler (Wilkinson) in South Haven, Michigan. She was the youngest of 3 children, with a brother, David, and a sister, Marilyn. Ellen grew up and lived her entire life in the Bangor/South Haven area. She graduated from Bangor High School in 1967. Ellen was a hard worker who took pride in all her jobs, from working at Evertte Piano Company to welding at Haworth, and finally, following her sisters' footsteps, she became a United States postal worker, where she served as a rural route carrier until her retirement in 2019.

Ellen had 3 daughters to whom she devoted her time, ensuring they were always supported, happy, and loved. Ellen loved watching basketball, being outdoors in warm weather, watching "her birds," going to the casino with friends, last-minute shopping trips, and spending time with her 2 cats, Louie & Weezy. But most of all, she enjoyed being "Grandma Ellen" to her 3 wonderful grandchildren, Devin, Tyler, and Leeanne, and her 1 great-grandson, Eric. Ellen will be deeply missed by all who knew her, and they will find comfort in knowing she is now home and at peace with the Lord, her savior. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Surviving are her 3 daughters, Tali (Dennis) Sorenson, Holly (Todd) Mielke, and Renée (Andrew) Gossman; grandsons Devin Sorenson and Tyler (Olivia) Mielke; granddaughter Leeanne (Yamil) Mielke; and 1 great-grandson, Eric. Also surviving are brother David (Rita) Butler and nieces Jennifer (Tim) and Lori (Jason). Ellen is preceded in death by her father, Lewis Butler; her mother, Donna Butler; and her sister, Marilyn Geier (Butler).

Per her wishes, cremation has taken place, and a celebration of life will be held at a later date. Arrangements are entrusted to the Bangor Chapel of D.L. Miller Funeral Home (www.dlmillerfuneralhome.com).

Tribute Wall

LS

“ *Lacey Sager sent a virtual gift in memory of Ellen Loraine Heinichen (Butler)*



Lacey Sager - 10 minutes ago

BM

“ *Brenda Mead lit a candle in memory of Ellen Loraine Heinichen (Butler)*



Brenda Mead - 25 minutes ago