



Eleanor Gevelinger

December 10, 1925 - May 11, 2020

Dodgeville - Eleanor (McGraw) Gevelinger, age 94, of Dodgeville, died on May 11, 2020 at Upland Hills Hospital in Dodgeville, after blessing her family with one last Mother's Day,

A lifelong and beloved local resident, Eleanor was born on December 10, 1925 and grew up on a farm as the youngest of Dan and Mary (Lavery) McGraw's tightly knit and fiercely proud Irish family of ten children near Mineral Point. She walked to a one-room schoolhouse until fifth grade and helped with the chickens when not playing outdoor games and card games before going on to graduate from Mineral Point High School in 1944. A maverick in her day, after graduating high school Eleanor worked at the Farm Bureau and Farm Loan office and took road trips with her girlfriends, all the while holding at bay her high school sweetheart, Ray Gevelinger, before marrying him nearly ten years later on January 9, 1954. By marrying Ray, Eleanor added his siblings John (Agatha), Joe (Rosemary), Bob (Margaret), Mary (Hadley), Paul, and Ed (Roseanna) Gevelinger to her already large family mix.

Eleanor and Ray then settled in Dodgeville, had four children, and continued exploring the country by taking one long road trip after another -- instilling in each of their children the same love of travel and people everywhere that Eleanor and Ray always had. Eleanor's father, Dan, was born in Ireland and Eleanor never lost touch with her Irish roots, most recently returning to Ireland when she was 79 for another long road trip around the entire country. Unlike the rest of her travel companions, Eleanor was unfazed, and a smile never left her face while being driven down the wrong side of the road on a busy one-way street in downtown Dublin. It took a lot more than that to rattle Eleanor.

Eleanor lived for her children, her grandchildren, and her church. A lifelong St. Joseph's parishioner, she served both on the school board and as a tireless volunteer at St. Joseph's Catholic School. As busy as she was, she always made time for her many good friends, enjoying her bowling league and the "Bridgers" for many years. And she was always game for a road trip "south," especially when she won.

Eleanor lost Ray in 2012 after 58 years of marriage. A few years later, when she was 90 and after living for 50 years on Vern Court in Dodgeville, Eleanor made a new home in CrestRidge Assisted Living. Eleanor made many friends at CrestRidge, and she was (and her family is) extremely grateful for the hard work and unfailing kindness and companionship that CrestRidge staff showed her in her later years.

Eleanor leaves behind her children, Marcia (Don) Bastian, Cindy (Wayne) Pulley, Greg (Julie Lehner-Gevelinger) and Jan (Pat) Davies; her grandchildren Eleana (Gary) and Alex Bastian, Hannah Pulley, Nathan (Nina) and Brehan Gevelinger, and Meghan (Pat), Caitlin (Mike), Lianna and Abby (Jairo) Davies; her great grandchildren Charlotte and James Godfrey and Samuel Gevelinger; her sister-in-law Lois McGraw; many nieces and nephews whom she adored; all the many and special friends she made throughout the years, and everyone at CrestRidge. Her husband, Ray, died before her, as did her sisters Genevieve (Willie) Laverty, Theresa (Willie) Weier, Margaret McGraw, Laura (Bob) Tuschen, Jane (John) Peckham and her brothers Eddie (Lucille), Danny (Dorothy), John (Kay) and Paul McGraw. She also lost a special grandson, Zach (Olivia Hogan) Gevelinger whom she loved very much.

Eleanor died peacefully at Upland Hills Hospital on May 11 after a short illness. Her children are so grateful that each was able to spend lots of time with their mom and be by her side at the hospital as she slipped away.

In these trying times, a memorial service for everyone else who loved her will be scheduled for a later date.

“When Irish Eyes Are Smiling, sure ‘tis like a morn’ in spring. In the lilt of Irish laughter, you can hear the angels sing.”

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph's Cemetery

Compassion Way
Dodgeville, WI 53533

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall



“ *Eleanor Gevelinger*

November 15, 2022 at 06:49 AM



“ *Aunt Eleanor was a wonderful person. I remember spending many days and nights at her house. We went Trick or Treating from the Gevelingers, played pool, played in the back yard and just always looked forward to our mini vacations at the Gevelingers. Aunt Eleanor and Uncle Ray always greeted us (usually Paul, Dan and Myself) with huge smiles and lots of kindness. This picture of Aunt Eleanor makes me smile. She made lots of people smile. Love, Teresa McGraw Schmidt*

Teresa Schmidt - May 26, 2020 at 06:20 PM



“ *A memory of my Aunt Eleanor is linked to childhood visits to the dentist in Dodgeville. Eleanor worked in an office right across the hall from our dentist's office, and our treat after the dentist visit was to go see Aunt Eleanor and be greeted enthusiastically with a big warm smile! That's what she did.....warmed hearts of all those around her throughout her life!
"Until we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of His hand."
Love and prayers for the family in this time of loss...Judy McGettigan*

Judy McGettigan - May 16, 2020 at 12:27 PM



Judy, what a delightful story! Love, Janie (Peckham Stoever)

Jane Stoever - May 16, 2020 at 10:19 PM



“ *Ray and Eleanor greatly impacted the lives of students and staff at St. Joe's over the years! Their generosity was second to none, and they never wanted acknowledgement. Their kindness had a lifelong impact on many who worked at the school, and their contribution definitely impacted the reality of building a school when it was badly needed. Their legacy continues with their son, Greg, and his wife, Julie, who have given so many volunteer hours assisting and working with students. Words are not adequate to express the gratitude of the staff and students at St. Joe's--
past, present and future.*

Sharon Wimer - May 13, 2020 at 11:32 PM



“ *Cheeseboard Complete was purchased for the family of Eleanor Gevelinger.*



May 13, 2020 at 08:42 PM

EC

“ *Our families have so many memories of growing up with the Gevelingers! Auntie Eleanor was always there to help out in any way. If someone got sick or injured when we were in town, we always headed to Gevelingers. When we moved away from home and couldn't reach mom or dad...we would always call Eleanor and she would track them down. Mom remembers walking to visit Eleanor on Sunday afternoons at Vern Court after Uncle Ray died. We also had many wonderful chats at Crest Ridge. Eleanor's laugh will continue to echo in our ears. Her sparkling eyes and smile will never be forgotten. Her kindness and love will always be cherished. We celebrate this wonderful, dear Aunt. Sending love and hugs to all her beautiful family. Love, Elly McGraw Chybowski & Tim*

Elly McGraw Chybowski - May 13, 2020 at 01:22 PM

MP

“ *I loved to visit with Eleanor on her front porch on Vern Court. She was always so upbeat and kind. Her family was everything to her. She will certainly be missed. You're in our thoughts at this difficult time.*

Mary Pipal

Mary Pipal - May 12, 2020 at 09:53 PM



“ *Starbucks Coffee Condolences was purchased for the family of Eleanor Gevelinger.*



May 12, 2020 at 09:27 PM

KB

“ We hold you close in our thoughts and prayers as you grieve the loss of your mother and grandmother. We didn't know Eleanor but she must have been a truly lovely person to raise such a wonderful daughter. Know that we care, Marcia and Don and family. Karen Betzig-Lundberg & Eric Lundberg

Karen Betzig-Lundberg - May 12, 2020 at 09:21 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Eleanor Gevelinger.



May 12, 2020 at 03:12 PM

TM

“ Eleanor was a lovely person. So sorry for your loss!

Tom Mckinlay - May 12, 2020 at 01:47 PM

SM

“ Aunt Eleanor was such a loving and kind person who will be greatly missed. We love the picture you selected because that is so her...her smile was so heartwarming. She always made you feel so welcome when you had the chance to visit.

The Paul/Lois McGraw family was so close to the Gevelinger family. Growing up together was so special.

When we got married in Minnesota a lot of family from Wisconsin couldn't come because of the distance and farming. The Gevelinger family was able to come and that was so wonderful.

Our love and prayers go out to all of the Gevelingers at the passing of this amazing matriarch.

*May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind always be at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
and rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

Denny and Sue McGraw

Susan McGraw - May 12, 2020 at 09:34 AM

DS

“ I will remember Aunt Eleanor as a warm and gracious hostess, even when her home was invaded by an unruly crowd of nieces and nephews from Missouri. She and Uncle Ray welcomed Anne and me into their home when we visited the summer after we were married and spent time to show us their part of the world. What a wonderful person and how lucky we were to have her as our aunt for so many years. We are grateful for the fond memories.

David Stonner and Anne Schwartz

David Stonner - May 12, 2020 at 09:21 AM

MM

“ As I learned from Marcia about Aunt Eleanor’s illness, I thought of the long line of those waiting for her. Lots of Irish Eyes were Smiling - there is no doubt! Eleanor always greeted with a smile. A lot could /should be learned from her. Kindness is free and she certainly largely dished that out. My sincere sympathy goes out to her immediate family as well as all that are affected by her death. As the text/phone lines lit up yesterday, it spoke volumes about all that cared and are affected by her passing. May your Irish Eyes now work again and fly high. Until we meet again, RIP faithful servant.

Margie McGraw - May 12, 2020 at 09:12 AM

LS

“ We are sorry to hear of Eleanor's passing

Ken and Lori Seyfferth



Lori Seyfferth - May 12, 2020 at 07:38 AM

JS

“ Aunt Eleanor was the youngest of the 10 children in the McGraw family, and our Mom, Jane, was the second youngest girl in the family. They were always close, always on the phone to each other. During our Mom's 7 years at a seniors' facility in Saint Louis, the only real way to cheer Mom up was to call Eleanor and let both of them laugh at whatever crazy thing Uncle Ray was up to. Even though Eleanor and Ray got married in January and we hardly ever made the trip to Wisconsin from Saint Louis until summer, we got to go to Eleanor's wedding. I was allowed to join Mom in seeing Eleanor's bridal gown the day before the wedding--pretty special for a 10-year-old who adored her aunt! I spent a year in school (1970-71) at Arizona State University, in Tempe, and Aunt Eleanor somehow convinced Uncle Ray that their family should visit me. The trailer where I had my rented room was small, but the Gevelingers were troopers and didn't let on that the space was tight for visiting. In our later years, when we Peckhams would go back to Wisconsin for reunions, we always went to Eleanor's home (and later to Crestview) before stopping to see anyone else in Mineral Point or Dodgeville. Eleanor would give us all the news and tell us who'd been visiting her, often including my brother John, who always got to Wisconsin before the rest of us and who always checked in first with Aunt Eleanor. We miss you, dear Aunt Eleanor! - - from Janie, as in Janie Peckham Stoever, of Overland Park, Kansas

Jane Stoever - May 11, 2020 at 10:50 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Eleanor's passing, she was such a sweet lady with a always a smile and pleasant personality. Enjoyed visiting with her at Crestridge, she will be missed.Heaven has one more angel.

Julie Martin - May 11, 2020 at 10:34 PM



“ I will miss bringing her cookies and saffron. Always enjoyed our visits. Sending hugs and prayers to the family.

Lori Lawinger Mckinlay

Lori Lawinger - May 11, 2020 at 10:27 PM



I will so miss Eleanor! She always had a smile and so grateful for any little thing we could do for her. I as her friends at Crestridge are going to miss her so much! So many stories today. My sympathies to all of the family. RIP Eleanor always in my heart!

Darcey - May 11, 2020 at 11:29 PM



“ Eleanor was such an amazing lady. She will be missed by one and all.

Karen Schuppner - May 11, 2020 at 08:40 PM



“ So very sorry to hear of Eleanor's passing. She was a gem of a lady. I enjoyed her when she would come to our programs put on by the "Church Ladies". She loved to sing with us and would share of family gatherings. I will miss Eleanor when we are able to go back in. Sending healing prayers, love, love hugs to all of you. May God wrap you in His loving arms and may you know that peace that passes all understanding during this difficult time.

Beth Martin - May 11, 2020 at 08:33 PM



“ So sorry for your loss, your mama was a very sweet lady. Thoughts and prayers are with you all at this difficult time.

Allison Borne Woodward - May 11, 2020 at 06:02 PM

SJ

“ Oh so sorry for all the Gevelinger's. Another bright light has gone out in Dodgeville. Eleanor was such a class act and she will be dearly missed.
Sheri Crubaugh-Johnson

Sheri johnson - May 11, 2020 at 05:19 PM