



Ethelen Ann Herbstreit

October 12, 1936 - March 30, 2026

Ethelen Ann Herbstreit, a beloved mother, dedicated educator, and passionate member of her community, passed away peacefully on March 30, 2026, in Williamsburg, Michigan, at the age of 89. Born on October 12, 1936, in Marion, Ohio, Ethelen lived a life full of joy, creativity, and service, leaving an indelible mark on all who knew her.

Ethelen earned her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from The Ohio State University and devoted her career to teaching and inspiring young minds as a school teacher and substitute teacher. She was also a talented church organist and leader of the children's choir at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, where she contributed her musical talent and passion for worship. Her love of music extended beyond the church as she sang in the church choir and enjoyed playing the piano. Ethelen's strong will and determination were evident in every aspect of her life, from her community service to her beautiful quilting, sewing, and canning of fruits and vegetables.

Throughout her life, Ethelen was deeply engaged in the Grand Ledge community. She volunteered with Ledge Craft Lane and the Grand Ledge Opera House, and her commitment to community service earned her the prestigious Athena Award in 2007. As an active participant in the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML), she contributed generously to numerous charities. Ethelen's spirit of generosity and creativity was reflected

in her craft work, including the lovely wedding dress she created for herself.

Ethelen is survived by her son Michael Herbstreit and daughter-in-law Daleann, her daughter Deborah Herbstreit, her son Mark Herbstreit and daughter-in-law Tracey Herbstreit, her granddaughter Breanna Herbstreit. She was preceded in death by her loving Husband John who passed away February 8, 2025 and her beloved parents, Clarence and Henrietta Kietzmen. She will be fondly remembered for her love of travel, especially the numerous cruises she embarked on with her late husband, John. A celebration of Ethelen's remarkable life will take place at a later date, where family and friends will gather to honor her legacy of love, music, and service. Arrangements by the Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home, Grand Ledge. Share your memories and condolences online at holihantkin.com.

Tribute Wall

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“ My mother, Ruthmary Coohon, now deceased, spoke fondly of Ethelen, whom she met through LWML. Her face would light up when speaking about her. Ethelen must indeed have been the very special lady described so eloquently in her obituary in the State Journal.
Carolyn Coohon Boger

Carolyn Boger - April 19 at 10:06 PM

JH

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Ethelen's passing. I became good friends of both John and Ethelen while delivering their mail. Always great to hear stories of "old" Grand Ledge, with a story or two of my dad the milkman. I always looked forward to my Russian bread at Christmas and I was able to make it for them once the torch was passed. She was a wonderful woman who brought strength and joy to so many. She will be truly missed.

Janice Hughes - April 13 at 08:47 PM

JH

“ With heartfelt sadness on the loss of our friend Ethelen. She had a life very well lived and will be missed by all that knew her. .Joanna Harrington Ward.

JOANNA J HARRINGTON - April 02 at 01:49 PM