



Sara Louise Rifner

July 28, 1923 - June 23, 2019

Sara Louise (Beal) Rifner, a life-long resident of New Castle, passed away peacefully on the evening of Sunday, June 23, 2019, surrounded by her family at Henry Community Health. She was just one month shy of her 96th birthday.

Sara was born July 28, 1923 in New Castle, the only child of the late Otis and Lucille McKee (Berry) Beal.

She was a member of the First United Methodist Church for over 70 years, a life member of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority where she was a recipient of the Queen Award in 1974 and received the Girl of the Year Award several times. She was a charter member of the Ladies of the Elks Auxiliary #484. Sara served on the board of Rainbow Girls and was a 75 year member of the Eastern Star Chapter #116, and also a charter member of the White Shrine of Jerusalem #17. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, The Sarah Winston Henry County Chapter. Sara was a charter member of the ABWA – New Beginnings and she was involved in both Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts receiving awards in both.

Sara retired from Ameriana Savings Bank (First Merchants Bank) in 1988 having worked there for 15 years.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 50 years, John Henry Rifner,

who passed away on March 12, 1996; a granddaughter, Kimberly Ann Trainor; a son-in-law, Larry Gordon; a daughter-in-law, Patricia Kay Rifner; two sisters-in-law, Sister John Mary Rifner and Agnes Schortgen, and a brother-in-law, Robert Schortgen.

Those left to cherish Sara's memory include her children, Steve (Shirley) Rifner of Greenfield, Sheila Gordon of New Castle, Stewart Rifner of Cambridge City, Stanley Rifner of New Castle, and Susan (Jeff) Shelton of New Castle; grandchildren, Sandra (Josh) Sipes, Stacey (Thomas) Sobat, Samuel (Londa) Rifner, Erin McCartt, Shane Rifner, Sean Shelton, Boyd Gordon, Rhonda (Kenny) Addison, Jack (Tonya) Shank Jr., Dionne Shank, Michael (Chrissy) Shank, Amanda (Derek) Arnold, and Jennifer (Brannan) Stewart; great-grandchildren, Craig Rifner, Ethan Sipes, Blake and Macy McCartt, Lainey and Levi Rifner, Kherington, Jaxon, Haeven Shelton, Reid Rogers, Rane Addison, Christian, Mike, and Kennedy Shank, Jade Brown, Rayna Shank, Kenna and Cara Jo Arnold, and McKenna and Tyson Stewart; and a sister-in-law, Sister Martha Ann Rifner.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at First United Methodist Church with Pastor Tom McGilliard officiating. A memorial service will be offered by the Order of the Eastern Star Chapter #116 to begin the funeral. Burial will follow in South Mound Cemetery West Lawn Addition.

Friends may call from 4 – 8 pm Tuesday at Sproles Family Funeral Home and one hour prior to the funeral at the church.

Memorial contributions may be offered to the First United Methodist Church, 1324 Church St. New Castle, IN 47362.

You may send the family a personal condolence at www.sprolesfamilycares.com.

The Sproles family and staff is honored to serve the family of Sara Rifner.

Cemetery Details

South Mound Cemetery West Lawn Addition

950 South Memorial Dr.
New Castle, IN 47362

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 25. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Sproles Family Funeral Home
2400 S Memorial Dr
New Castle, IN 47362
(765) 521-2400
toms@sprolesfamilycares.com
<https://www.sprolesfamilycares.com/>

Service

JUN 26. 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
1324 Church Street
New Castle, IN

Tribute Wall

GH

“ Sheila, so sorry to hear about your Mom. I remember her so well from my junior high school years. I lost my Mom in 2012. A hard adjustment since she was the last of my family. Hope you’re well and doing ok. I am living in Bradenton, FL now. If you ever get down this way, I would love to see you.

Gregory Hayes - June 27, 2019 at 08:19 PM

RR

“ My sympathy to the entire family! You have a very sweet mother. I am sorry I was unable to make her calling. Cherish your precious memories.



Ron and Donna Ragan - June 27, 2019 at 05:16 PM

RE

“ I read her obituary and it was lovely. She lived such a full life and she was loved by so many. She looks like she kept herself busy serving and giving to others. She will be missed, but her memories are yours forever.

“I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

— Maya Angelou

Raissa Espejo - June 25, 2019 at 04:21 PM

DT

“ *David Upchurch and Scott Taylor purchased the Loved One Vertical Blanket for the family of Sara Louise Rifner.*



David Upchurch and Scott Taylor - June 25, 2019 at 03:07 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Sara Louise Rifner.*



June 25, 2019 at 02:46 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Sara Louise Rifner.*



June 25, 2019 at 01:01 PM



“ 88 files added to the album Life Tributes



Sproles Family Funeral Home - June 25, 2019 at 12:19 PM

JS

“ Stacey:

I am so saddened for you. I know how close you were to your Grandmother. I pray that you find peace and joy in the memories you have of the times you spent together throughout your life.

Jim Stahl

James Stahl - June 25, 2019 at 07:07 AM

SS

Thank you Jim! She was a lovely lady and we shared so many good times together:)

Stacey Sobat - June 25, 2019 at 10:48 AM

MA

Steve Sheila Stu Stan and Susan. I'm so sorry to hear of your mothers passing. Mother gets the weekly bulletins from church and I always check on her and where she's living . Since mother isn't in new castle any longer I can't keep abreast of her friends. She lived a long life and was loved by so many people. She's now resting in peace with your dad and grandma. God bless you all. Marsha Billingsley Andrrdon

marsha anderson - June 27, 2019 at 09:33 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Sara Louise Rifner.*



June 25, 2019 at 04:58 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Sara Louise Rifner.*



June 24, 2019 at 08:57 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Sara Louise Rifner.*



June 24, 2019 at 04:04 PM



“ *Prayers for the family during this difficult time!! Herb & Judy Bunch*

Herb & Judy Bunch - June 24, 2019 at 03:34 PM

SS

“ *i will miss Sara’s smiling personality and sense of humor. It was my pleasure to take care of Sara and be part of her daily living. RIP. Prayers for the family.*



sue smith - June 24, 2019 at 01:37 PM