



## Wilma J Wessel

October 30, 1943 - January 7, 2016

Wilma J. Wessel, 72, of Brownstown, Indiana, passed away at 8:30 p.m. Thursday, January 7, 2016 at Schneck Memorial Hospital following a three day illness.

Born October 30, 1943 in Bedford, IN she was the daughter of Earl and Mildred (Lutes) Mitchaner. On April 3, 1964, she married William F. Wessel at Sauers Lutheran Church. Wilma was a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church and retired as Executive Director of the Red Cross in Jackson, Jennings and Scott counties. She was a member of Brownstown-Ewing Mainstreet, LWML, St. Peters Lutheran Church Foundation board, Jackson/Jennings County Chapter of Thrivent Financial, and the Heritage Park committee. She was also a Sunday school teacher, an Avon representative, and an usher at Lucas Oil Stadium for the Colts for 6 years.

Wilma enjoyed being with her many friends and family. While she worked at the Red Cross, she touched many lives in the community. In her retirement, she volunteered many hours of service to her church and community and sold Avon to her many friends. To her family, she was an inspiration. She loved to spend time with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchild, being a vital part of their lives. She would do everything with them from riding roller coasters to cooking their favorite dishes. Wilma always had encouraging things to say to those around her. She accepted and loved everyone for who they were. She could always make you laugh! Wilma lived as a woman of deep faith, witnessing to those around her of Jesus her Savior. Wilma was loved and will be missed by her husband, children and grandchildren and great grandchild, her large Wessel extended family and her many, many friends.

Survivors include her husband, William, two daughters, Audrey (Gordon) Stoneburner of Austin, TX and Anita Goldstein of Trabuco Canyon, CA; six grandchildren: Amy Jean Stoneburner (Aaron) Mails of Seymour, Daniel (Liz) Stoneburner of Austin, TX, David Stoneburner of Houston, TX, and Matthew, Emily and Sophie Goldstein all of Trabuco Canyon, CA; and one great grandchild, Riley Ann Mails, of Seymour. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Funeral services for Wilma J. Wessel will be conducted Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Brownstown, with Rev. Jeff Patterson officiating. Friends may call from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. Monday, January 11, 2016 at

Spurgeon Funeral Home, Inc. and from 10:00 a.m. until time of the service Tuesday at the church. Memorials may be given to St. Peter's Lutheran Church or to the Community Foundation of Jackson County for the Brownstown Heritage Park Fund.

# Cemetery

---

# Events

---

**Lutheran Cemetery**  
High Street  
Brownstown, IN, 47220

**JAN 11 Visitation** 04:00PM - 08:00PM  
Spurgeon Funeral Home  
206 E. Commerce Street, Brownstown, IN, US, 47220

**JAN 12 Service** 11:00AM  
St. Peters Lutheran Church  
403 West Bridge Street,, Brownstown, IN, US, 47220

# Comments

---



“ May God wrap his arms around you and the Family and give you strength. God Bless. Mike and Debbie Robinson (we are Bridget's in laws)



**Debbie Robinson** - January 11, 2016 at 06:57 PM

---



“ God's Blessings to you, dear Wessel family, as you miss Wilma. It was such a blessing growing up in the parsonage in Brownstown with neighbors we love, then as now, as family. Wilma, and all of you, were especially kind and patient with me from the time I was little. Wilma is such a grand reflection of the Savior's love. I and all the Texas Moyers pray for your healing and comfort as you miss this wonderful lady. I know Wilma is having a grand celebration right now in heaven. We're praying for you and love you all. JV, Nancy, Jordan, Suzie and Nick Moyer (Ft. Worth, Texas)

**John Moyer** - January 10, 2016 at 06:56 PM

---



“ Brenda & Joe Mckain lit a candle in memory of Wilma J Wessel



**Brenda & Joe Mckain** - January 10, 2016 at 06:30 PM

---



“ To have known Wilma Wessel is to be blessed.

I've known Wilma since her husband, Bill, began working at Hoosier Christian Village (HCV), and she began as director of the Red Cross in Jackson County. We've been blessed by their friendship in many ways.

For several years, Bill and Wilma and my Bill and I had season tickets to the Derby Theatre. I think that we enjoyed the trip to and from the plays as much or more than the musicals themselves because Wilma and Bill would share stories about the latest antics of their grandchildren.

A lot of planning went into visits by their grandchildren because they wanted to make sure that they had a great time – overnight stays at a hotel with a swimming pool or camping out in their back yard. We've enjoyed hearing about their children and grandchildren since the 80's. Of course, this past year they've enjoyed helping with their great-granddaughter.

Over the years we've enjoyed quite a few HCV Christmas Parties – sharing a table together. Seems like her Bill was always being roped into being part of a “skit”. But this past year, Wilma was “selected” to be part of the entertainment and she was the “star” of the show!

Wilma is a natural leader and always seems to handle a lot of responsibility without flinching. As director of the Red Cross, it didn't seem to faze her as she was given more and more responsibility. What to me seemed like an overwhelming responsibility she managed easily.

When she retired from Red Cross, I asked her if she would be interested in coming on board Brownstown/Ewing Main Street hoping that she would be bored and want to help us “make history” in Brownstown & Jackson County.

And “make history” is just what she did. She had a vision of an Artsfest that would bring together all the talented “artists” of Jackson County. The Artsfest is her “baby”, she conceived of the idea and was able to bring together everything and everybody and make it happen - always giving credit to all the people who helped.

This was so appreciated by the community that the Brownstown Exchange Club gave her the Brownstown/Ewing Cultural Heritage Award in 2014 – a well-deserved honor.

It was evident in her life that she loved her Lord and His Church! Jesus asks us if we love Him serve others - to feed and clothe those that need it and this is what she has done and because she and Bill have always partnered in serving – they both have done.

She served her Lord faithfully as she served in her church and the community . Well done thy good and faithful servant, indeed!

Linda McCormick, Brownstown, IN

Linda McCormick - January 10, 2016 at 05:44 PM

---



“ Deanna Pearson Reed lit a candle in memory of Wilma J Wessel



Deanna Pearson Reed - January 10, 2016 at 11:26 AM

---



“ Wilma and I started out in First grade at Houston all the way through graduation at Clearspring High School. We have kept up with each other through the years even though I live in Colorado. When I came to Indiana we would always try to get together with others who went to Houston for dinner, usually at Cracker Barrel. I will miss the emails, letters, calls and get togethers. But God gained another angel and she will be watching over her loved ones. God bless you and your families.

Deanna Pearson Reed - January 10, 2016 at 11:26 AM

---



“ It was a great honor to work with Wilma on the Artfest committee. My condolences to all. Barb Clark of Scrappy Patches Quilt Shop

Barbara Clark - January 10, 2016 at 10:08 AM

---



“ Anyone who has ever met this amazing lady, will never forget her. She is one of a kind.

Kathy - January 10, 2016 at 08:46 AM

---



“ Kelly McKinney lit a candle in memory of Wilma J Wessel



**Kelly McKinney** - January 09, 2016 at 11:22 PM

---



“ Charlie Smith lit a candle in memory of Wilma J Wessel



**Charlie Smith** - January 09, 2016 at 11:07 PM

---



“ In June 2008 a flood came from the north and Wilma along with others at Red Cross were very helpful. If it had not been for Medora, we would not have gotten the help that we did. She will be greatly missed. It's as if a big chunk of our heart just died off.. She was always helpful with whatever I needed for Medora and the classes. She had the Red Cross doing the right things the right way.

**bill drees** - January 09, 2016 at 08:33 PM



“ Bill...I am so saddened to hear about Wilma! I will not be able to attend visitation or services but please know you are in my thoughts and prayers!!as well as Audrey and Anita and grandchildren! Cherish all the beautiful memories and I pray that God give you comfort and peace in the days ahead. Love and prayers, Karen Metz. (I have sent a memorial to Trinity L H S for Wilma)

**Karen Metz** - January 09, 2016 at 08:59 PM



“ Bill, Audrey & Anita- I am so sorry to hear about the loss of Wilma! I have many great memories of your family and the time spent in Brownstown as neighbors and friends! Please know you are all in my thoughts and prayers!

Pam (Lutes) Acton

**Pam (Lutes) Acton** - January 10, 2016 at 05:16 AM



“ I was on the Red Cross Board for several years with a great group led by a very caring and wonderful person, Wilma Wessel. She did many many things for the people she served through her position at the Red Cross. She was serving to all in time of need or guidance and a friend to everyone. It was indeed a personal pleasure to work with her as a board member and to be blessed to become her friend as well. She made the world a better place and will be dearly missed.

Fred Lewis

**Fred Lewis** - January 10, 2016 at 08:06 AM