



Elfrieda "Fritz" H. Merkley

December 15, 1928 - April 10, 2026

Elfrieda "Fritz" H. Merkley, age 97, of Ireland, Indiana, passed away with her family by her side at 8:56 a.m. on Friday, April 10, 2026, at Legacy Living in Jasper.

Fritz was born in Celestine, Indiana, on December 15, 1928, to Martin and Frances (Seeger) Schroering. She married Hilbert J. Merkley on September 7, 1950, in St. Celestine Catholic Church. He preceded her in death on February 7, 1990.

She retired from Inwood Factory. After retirement, she worked part-time at Doll Dreams in Ireland.

She was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Ireland and their St. Anne's Society. She was an active member for the American Legion Auxiliary where she served as president and was in charge of the girls state program for many years.

She found great joy in visiting residents at local nursing homes, always offering kindness and companionship. She could always be counted on to offer a helping hand. Her selfless spirit touched many, and her greatest love was her children and grandchildren, in whose lives she remained deeply present and devoted.

She was sweet and sincere, touching the lives of many. Though she had few material possessions, she was richly surrounded by love.

She is survived by four children: Janet Fukatsu and spouse Michihiro, Cincinnati; Gerald L. Merkley, Santa Claus; Connie J. Merkley and spouse Sylvester "Junie" Vogler, Huntingburg; Dennis R. Merkley, Huntingburg; 9 grandchildren: Sarah Sugawara, Joshua Fukatsu, Jason Merkley, Lisa Brackett, Chad Merkley, Jeremy Merkley, Kyle Merkley, Kevin Merkley, and Mariya Merkley and 9 great-grandchildren, two sisters: Rosemary (Roger) Rivers and Lucille Alcorn, and brother, Ray (Jan) Schroering, and three sisters-in-law: Janet Schroering, Anita Schroering and Aggie Merkley.

Besides her husband, she is preceded in death by two sisters: Alice Schroering and Florence Schroering, five brothers: Henry, Norbert, Marty, Jerome, and Edward Schroering, and two half-brothers: Sylvester Humbert and Cornelius Schroering.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Elfrieda "Fritz" H. Merkley will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday April 15, 2026, at St. Mary Catholic Church in Ireland, Indiana with burial to follow in the church cemetery.

A visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Mass time at the church on Wednesday.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary Catholic Church or a favorite charity.

Online condolence can be made at www.becherkluesner.com

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Catholic Church Cemetery

2829 North 500 West
Jasper, IN 47546
(812) 482-4071

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 15. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
2829 N 500 W
Ireland, IN

Mass of Christian Burial

APR 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
2829 N 500 W
Ireland, IN

Tribute Wall

DL

“ My condolences to the Merkley family. Your parents were like surrogate parents to me and grandparents to our children. I'm Eternally Thankful and Grateful for all they did fore me/us !

Dan Ledyard - April 27 at 03:08 PM

SW

“ I knew Fritz while working at jasper table company. She was a loving and kind person,to all. She will stay in my heart forever. RIP my friend

Sandra Walt - April 14 at 11:14 PM

DL

“ So sorry for the lose of ur mother Connie and family 🌹



Donna and Mike Linette - April 14 at 09:03 PM

KM

“ So sorry for your loss. Fritz was always a joy to be around. She will be greatly missed! Prayers for the family and God bless. Kenny Merkley

Kenneth Merkley - April 14 at 05:26 PM

TB

“ We loved having Freida as our neighbor growing up. She was always so kind and put up with the Schue kids' constant shenanigans. I know our mom will greatly miss her as will us kids. Love and prayers to the family.

Tara Bayer - April 13 at 03:38 PM

DK

“ I worked with Mrs. Merkley at Inwood. She was very patient with an uncoordinated and unskilled high schooler. May she rest in peace..
Dan Krodel

Dan Krodel - April 11 at 10:04 PM

LA

“ We love you, Mariya and the Merkley family!

Joe and Laura Anthony



Laura Anthony - April 11 at 01:43 PM

RS

“ My deepest sympathy to her family.

Ron Sergesketter - April 10 at 10:22 PM

AS

“ Ann And Mark Schulte lit a candle in memory of Elfrieda "Fritz" H. Merkley



Ann and Mark Schulte - April 10 at 04:19 PM