



Viola "Shortie" Heitz

March 16, 1928 - February 7, 2016

Dateline St. Anthony, Indiana

Viola "Shortie" Heitz, age 87, of St. Anthony, Indiana, passed away at 10:34 a.m. on Sunday (February 7, 2016) at Northwood Retirement Community in Jasper, Indiana.

Viola was born in Jasper, IN on March 16, 1928 to Leo and Bertha (Rickelman) Kunkler. She married William Russel Heitz on June 27, 1953 in St. Anthony Catholic Church.

Viola retired at the age of 75 from the Linen Department at Memorial Hospital in Jasper, where she had worked for over 25 years.

She was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church in St. Anthony IN.

She enjoyed cooking, cleaning, and going to basketball games.

Surviving,

Husband;

Russ Heitz, St. Anthony, IN

One daughter;

Tonya Wilgus, and her husband Rick, Evansville, IN

Two Grandchildren;
Trace Wilgus and wife Abby, Austin, TX
Trev Wilgus, Dallas, TX
One Great Granddaughter;
Nora Jo Wilgus
One Sister;
Bernice Deffendoll, Jasper, IN

Preceding her in death one sister, Esther Schnell Barnett, and one brother, Leroy Kunkler.

Funeral services for Viola "Shortie" Heitz will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday (February 10, 2016) at St. Anthony Catholic Church, with burial to follow in the church cemetery.

Friends may call from 3:00-7:00 p.m. on Tuesday (February 9, 2016) at the Becher-Kluesner Downtown Chapel in Jasper, and one hour before services at the church on Wednesday.

Memorial contributions may be made to Northwood Retirement Community or St. Anthony Catholic Church.

Online condolences may be made at www.becherkluesner.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Anthony of Padua Church Cemetery

4444 Ohio Street
St. Anthony, IN 47575

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **9**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Becher & Kluesner Funeral Home - Downtown
214 East 7th Street
Jasper, IN 47546
(812) 482-4141
email@becherkluesner.com

Visitation

FEB **10**. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
4444 Ohio Street
St. Anthony, IN 47575

Mass

FEB **10**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
4444 Ohio Street
St. Anthony, IN 47575

Tribute Wall



“ Viola *"Shortie" Heitz*

January 01, 2023 at 10:54 AM

DW

“ Tonya, Rick and family,

I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your mother. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you. I am sorry I did not make it to the funeral home or funeral. I heard of your loss the day I was headed to Indy to have a total knee replacement. I am first now feeling up to doing things. Keep this in the back of your mind that she is in a much better place now, no more suffering or feeling of helplessness. It doesn't make any difference if you are young or older, the loss of a parent is always hard. Your love for them can never be taken away, and you need to remember all the good times in order to heal. I have so many memories of you, your mom and dad through the many years of softball and high school. Your dad holds a special place in my heart. You have a very wonderful father as I'm sure you know. We bump into one another every once and awhile at sporting events. He would come to some of my daughter's basketball games, just to have something to do and to meet friends. It was nice to see him and get a chance to talk and catch up on our families lives. He even showed up one day at our farm. I just happened to be walking out in front of the turkey houses, which set about 50 ft from the county road. He stopped and we talked for awhile. It was so nice to see him and to think he had taken the time to look us up meant so much to me. He hasn't aged a bit, he looks great. When my dad passed I was 20 and I remember your dad, you and Rick came to the funeral home. That meant a lot to me. After the passing of my dad at a young age and the years of playing softball together and having your dad as a coach I got to know him pretty well. During that time I always looked up to your dad as my second father. He is just one of a kind, he is a very special man and such a caring person. I will always have special memories of the good old days when we played softball together. I have been hashing over the idea of trying to get the softball players I played with over the years together and try to catch up on our lives and reminisce the memories we made together. Hope to see you in the near future.



Diane (Stetter) Wertman and family

Diane (Stetter) Wertman - March 02, 2016 at 12:38 PM

LN

“ *Tonya,
I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your mother. Our thoughts
and prayers are with you and your family during this time.*

Laura Newman and family

Laura Newman - February 11, 2016 at 10:30 AM

RG

“ *Russ-just missed you guys this morning before you left for the
church. Wanted to see you and offer my sympathy. (You are one of
my favorite people.) Good memories of Shortie and the time spent
with you all.*

Reen

Reen Gutsell - February 10, 2016 at 08:13 AM

AB

“ *Russel and family,
I am sorry to hear about the loss of Viola. I could see the beautiful
person that she was inside by the gentleness in her smile! By God's
grace, she is now in His hands. May the peace that only Christ can
give be with all of you.*

*Sorry I will no be coming to the funeral home. I have a cold and do
not want to share it!*

*Sincerely,
Andrea Bradford*

Andrea Bradford - February 09, 2016 at 10:11 AM