



## Loretta Emma Roberson

May 3, 1934 - January 27, 2016

Loretta Emma Roberson, 81, of Rockford passed away on January 27, 2016 surrounded by her loving family. Born May 3, 1934 in Barnum, WI, daughter of Henry and Mary (Proudfoot) Welsh. United in marriage to Henry Roberson on March 5, 1955 in Mississippi. The youngest of thirteen children, Loretta's faith and values were shaped by being treated so specially by her family and, at a young age, caring for her aging parents after most of her brothers and sisters had left home. As a lifetime homemaker, Loretta was a devoted wife and proud mother, grandmother, and great grand-mother. She gave us one of life's most meaningful measures, the confidence of knowing that we belonged. She always put her family's needs before hers and could be counted on to be at the kitchen table eager to listen, offer comfort, advice, a cup of hot tea, and some laughter; you know that magical kind that could bring everyone to tears. Loretta loved to laugh, oh how she loved to laugh. There was never a doubt her love was unconditional. She will be deeply missed. Loretta was a member of St. Edwards Catholic Church, where she participated in the Senior Club and Ladies Guild. She enjoyed chocolates, shopping for just that right item to display in her home, collecting ceramic angels, gardening, traveling (though she was always relieved to be back home), country and gospel music, hosting family gatherings, and dancing polkas with her sisters and other family members at weddings. Above all Loretta loved children, and even after Alzheimer's disease took her memories, her face would always light-up every time she saw a child's bright face or heard their laughter. This delight she refused to have taken from her. Survived by her children, Ron, Rick (Sally Fricke), Randy (Sue Hazlewood-Roberson), Reginald, Rosalynn (Bruce) Keirn; grandchildren, Aaron (Anna), Joshua (Amber Patton), Kaila (Scott Strubhart) Brittany (Chris McCarthy), Brooke (Rick) Barker, Sarah (Justin) Johnson, Leah (Manny) Weyermann; great-grandchildren, Max and Ian Barker, Alanna and Avery Johnson, Carter McCarthy, step-granddaughter Mandy Buttner, sister, Millie Heffner of WI and several nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by her parents, husband Henry, and son Rodney. The family extends deep appreciation to the staff at Fairhaven for their excellent care. We would also like to thank family, friends, and others for the cards and support we received the past few years. Your concern was always appreciated. Finally we thank Northern Illinois Hospice for their compassionate assistance. Funeral Service on February 8, 2016

at 2:00 p.m. in the Chapel at Fairhaven Christian Retirement Center, 3470 N. Alpine Rd. Rockford. Pastor Gretchen Hammeke, Westminster Presbyterian, will officiate. Visitation from 1:00 to 1:45 p.m. Memorials may be made to Fairhaven Christian Retirement Center. Entombment immediately following the service at Sunset Memorial Gardens. Grace Funeral and Cremation Services is assisting the family. Share a memory or condolence at [www.graceFH.com](http://www.graceFH.com).

# Events

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**FEB**   **Visitation**            01:00PM - 01:45PM

**8**

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Fairhaven Christian Retirement Center  
3470 North Alpine Rd., Rockford, IL, US, 61114

**FEB**   **Service**                    02:00PM

**8**

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Fairhaven Christian Retirement Center  
3470 North Alpine Rd., Rockford, IL, US, 61114

# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**Grace Funeral & Cremation Services** - February 05, 2016 at 05:44 PM



“ Lovely tribute. RIP Aunt Loretta

**Rosie** - February 06, 2016 at 08:11 PM



“ What sweet memories. Thanks for sharing. Love to all.

**Marilyn Blanton** - February 06, 2016 at 10:28 PM



“ Great video that highlights a rich life well lived with lots of love! Blessings on you all!

**Mark** - February 07, 2016 at 11:55 PM

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“ Dearest Cousins, Aunt Millie and entire Welsh family,  
Dear Loretta touched our lives deeply and profoundly. She embodied the spirit and all that is good about our Welsh family heritage. She was love, kindness, generosity and grace. Her Irish eyes twinkled with sweet charm and a gritty spirit. What a treasure! Truly a woman of dignity and honor. We share decades of precious memories of her. Her passing is a great loss.  
I admired everything about her--her strength, her character, her faith in Christ, her love for her children and family. She rocked me as a baby--I have cherished her ever since. How very blessed I was to have known and loved her. Many, many nights we shared memories, heartaches, jokes and stories around her kitchen table--crying and laughing till the wee hours of the morning. Together we climbed the steps of Blarney Castle and kissed the stone. We did her Jane Fonda workout together each morning in our British B&Bs. We shopped our shared passion of teacups and lace. We watched the sunset on the Shannon from our castle garden. We clapped and tapped our feet to "River Dance" in Dublin. While visiting Colorado Springs, we explored Colorado's nature trails, shops and restaurants together. Loretta was the most genuine person I've ever known.  
Now her final journey to heaven's realm is done. She's tending her lovely, fragrant garden there--waiting and watching to welcome each one of us home. She'll have a beautiful pot of tea to share and a story to tell...and we'll laugh till tears run down our faces...and it will feel like no time has passed at all. Her heavenly Irish eyes now shine with their own light, and she's at perfect peace wrapped in the arms of Jesus. I sadly grieve with you in our loss of Loretta. I joyfully celebrate her life, too--she will be remembered with fondness and love forever. She blessed our lives with so much love.

Deb Landers - February 06, 2016 at 05:14 PM

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“ 181 files added to the album LifeTributes



Grace Funeral & Cremation Services - February 05, 2016 at 05:02 PM

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“ Sweet Loretta....I met her in August of 2005. Loretta, Deb Landers and I spent 2 weeks together traveling through England, Ireland and Wales. Loretta kept us laughing on a daily basis. She was a beautiful ray of sunshine. I am blessed to have had that time with her.  
God's blessings to her family. I know she will be deeply missed.  
Susan Pepple  
Colorado Springs, CO

Susan Pepple - February 05, 2016 at 02:52 PM

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“ 20 files added to the album LifeTributes



Grace Funeral & Cremation Services - February 04, 2016 at 08:41 AM

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“ Dr. Ann Roberson purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Loretta Emma Roberson.



Ann Roberson - February 04, 2016 at 08:10 AM

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“ Lorretta was so very kind to Brooke and was a loving Grandmother. This love continues on, never to be forgotten.

Ann Roberson - February 04, 2016 at 07:17 AM

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“ Ann Roberson lit a candle in memory of Loretta Emma Roberson



**Ann Roberson** - February 04, 2016 at 07:12 AM

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“ 56 files added to the album LifeTributes



**Reggie** - February 03, 2016 at 08:50 PM

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“ My thoughts and prayers go out to you loretta was such a beautiful person and she really loved to make us laugh i will never the look on her face when ever we had entertainment come in she will be miss greatly. Bonnie from activities fairhaven

**Bonnie evans** - February 03, 2016 at 07:46 PM

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“ 148 files added to the album LifeTributes



**Grace Funeral & Cremation Services** - February 03, 2016 at 04:09 PM