



## Esther Eileen Prentice

January 21, 2024

Esther Eileen (Wetterholm, Bertelsen) Prentice, 82, a resident of Cape Coral, FL since 2012, formerly of Rockford, IL, passed away Sunday, January 21, 2024 in Cape Coral, FL. She was born in Rockford, IL to Albert and Eila Wetterholm, now deceased.

She married David Bertelsen in 1960, they had 4 children together. He passed in 1973. She then met George Prentice in 1975, at Strike at Reitsch's Bowling Alley. He was dared to throw ice through her big hoop earrings and within a week he stated he knew he had met the love of his life. They were married in 1977 and she gained a bonus daughter and son. She was lovingly known as Mom, Momma, Memaw, Gramsicle, Grandma, Auntie Esther, and Big Gramma.

She loved being a Woman of the Moose and became a lifetime member. She was an avid Cubs Fan! She enjoyed bowling, gathering with friends and doing ceramics and was very artistic. She and George started camping with the kids at Blackhawk Campground in Milton WI. There she met her best friends. She was always ready for a great time, including but not limited to Winning the Minnow Beer Competition at a Whitewater WI, college bar. She loved sneaking out and with her Best Friend, Sherry Jack, doing things teenagers would do.

Later in life she became the administrative assistant at Ricotta's Automotive. She loved dealing with the clients and the Ricotta staff and customers became family. She loved getting her hair done weekly and also being mad at George's money...one of her favorite sayings was "Sit on it Prentice"!!! If you have heard the phrase, "she never met a stranger", that was truly her!!!! She was the most giving person, and anyone that knew her knew that.

She is survived by her loving husband, George Prentice; children, Tracy Bertelsen (Dawn) of Rockford, IL, Tari Taylor (Kurt) of Loves Park, IL, Todd Bertelsen of Rock City, IL, Tannette Gauvreau (George) of Rockford, IL, Laura Grass (Oliver) of Norco, CA, and Geoffrey Prentice of IL; sister, Carol Fagan of Loves Park, IL. Her sisters in law Joyce

(Bill) Brown and Peggy (Jerry) Gavin, and Brother-in-Law Mike Prentice.

Her grandchildren - Melissa Hendren (Henry Goldsmith), Taylor Bertelsen (Jason Waldo), Amanda (Josh) Hathaway, David Bertelsen, Olivia Bertelsen, Phil Reynolds (Kimberly Garman), Breanna (Cory) Webb, Anthony Wood, Daniel Wood (Morgan Napier), Brian (Turkan) Wood and Brandon Gauvreau. Her great-grandchildren Devon (Jessikah) Reynolds, Riley Reynolds, Aubree Booker, Raina Hathaway, Eila Hathaway, Tinley Hendren, and Camden Wood. As well as numerous Nieces and Nephews. There are so many friends that are family, we are unable to list them all. Please know she loved you dearly.

Preceded in death by Beloved Granddaughter Amber Reynolds, sister in law Linda Prentice, Brothers in Law Gordy Prentice, Mark Prentice and Pat Prentice.

The family would like to thank the ICU staff at Gulf Coast Health and especially the loving tender care given by the staff at Hope House Hospice of Cape Coral, especially Susan and Jennifer.

Memorial Contributions in memory of Esther Eileen Prentice are suggested to <https://www.stjude.org/give/memorials-and-dedications.html>

Memorial Visitation on Saturday, February 10, 2024 from 1 pm to 2 pm at Grace Funeral & Cremation Services; 4301 N. Main St. Rockford, followed by a Celebration of Life at 2 pm. Pastor Bob Mellon will officiate. Share a memory or condolence at [www.GraceFH.com](http://www.GraceFH.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Rock River Crematory

4301 N. Main Street  
Rockford, IL 61103

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

FEB 10. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Grace Funeral & Cremation Services  
4301 N. Main St.  
Rockford, IL 61103

## Celebration of Life

FEB 10. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Grace Funeral & Cremation Services  
4301 N. Main St.  
Rockford, IL 61103

# Tribute Wall



“ Grace Funeral & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Esther Eileen Prentice



Grace Funeral & Cremation Services - March 14, 2024 at 02:07 PM

SH

“ Mary was such a pleasure to know and talk with.. a meaningful and positive course of life that we had several conversations on ..starting threw my parents back in the days of the Barber Coleman connection.. she will be sorely missed... Best to you George and all of her's ..... Sincerely, Sheldon

Sheldon - February 10, 2024 at 02:26 PM

PG

“ It was a wonderful day when you became my "Sister" Thanks for all the wonderful times and memories. You will truly be missed . Give Linda our love!!

Peggy Gavin - February 10, 2024 at 07:32 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Esther Eileen Prentice.



February 10, 2024 at 07:06 AM

PG

“ Peggy Gavin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Esther Eileen Prentice.

Peggy Gavin - February 10, 2024 at 07:06 AM

DT

“ Dawn & Tracy, Taylor & Jason, Melissa, Henry and Tinley, planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Esther Eileen Prentice.

Dawn & Tracy, Taylor & Jason, Melissa, Henry and Tinley, - February 09, 2024 at 05:19 PM

DR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



devin reynolds - February 09, 2024 at 09:06 AM

DR

“ Big grandma, thanks so much for coming to our wedding at the end of October. Really means a lot to us. Just want to say that I'm SOOO freaking PROUD to be your grandson. I'm also SOOO very grateful to know and love such a genuine, kind hearted, compassionate, loving person !!! Will miss you. Forever in our hearts. Love you .... Devon.

Devon Reynolds - February 07, 2024 at 04:40 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Esther Eileen Prentice.



February 07, 2024 at 11:33 AM

DF

“ George, Tracy, Tari, Todd & Tannette, Mike, Michael and I send you all of our love and prayers. We loved your Mom too. Michael would see her on a regular basis at Schnucks when he worked there. All those softball tournaments, bowling and family gatherings (special birthdays, anniversaries... such memories. Love, The Fenns... Mike, Darcie and Michael.

Darcie Fenn - February 06, 2024 at 05:51 PM

S2

“ Store 2. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Esther Eileen Prentice.

Store 2. - February 06, 2024 at 08:03 AM

RF

“ Ray, Tina & family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Esther Eileen Prentice.



Ray, Tina & family - February 05, 2024 at 08:21 PM

RF

“ Ray, Tina & family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Esther Eileen Prentice.

Ray, Tina & family - February 05, 2024 at 08:21 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Esther Eileen Prentice.



February 05, 2024 at 09:33 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Esther Eileen Prentice.



February 04, 2024 at 01:01 PM

LG

“ Laura G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Esther Eileen Prentice.

Laura G. - February 04, 2024 at 01:01 PM

TA

“ My mom. My best friend. My confidante. You’ve been my best friend all my life. Our daily calls, our text messages and our vacations together are the best memories!!! I miss you every second of every day! I’m so blessed God chose you to be my momma!!!! Thank you for showing me unconditional love and how to love others! Dance with the angels, sing in the choir and send us signs!!! You know what we need momma!!!! I love you all ways, Always!!!!



tannette - February 04, 2024 at 11:33 AM

JL

“ So sorry for your loss.

Jack Lindstrom - February 04, 2024 at 09:46 AM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Esther Eileen Prentice.



February 03, 2024 at 11:17 PM

AB

“ Anthony, Daniel, Brian & Brandon planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Esther Eileen Prentice.

Anthony, Daniel, Brian & Brandon - February 03, 2024 at 11:17 PM

AD

“ Amber and David Dudeck purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Esther Eileen Prentice.



Amber and David Dudeck - February 03, 2024 at 08:39 AM

MB

“ *Tari & Kurt, I was very sad to read about your Mom's passing. She was one of my favorite people at Ricotta's & the Club. I remember gluing her pull-tabs shut in her birthday card. You & George have my deepest condolences & are in my thoughts & prayers.*

MICHAEL BARTEL - February 02, 2024 at 08:39 PM

SG

“ *Esther & George gave me my 1st job when I moved to Rockford when they owned the USS Super Sandwich Submarine Shop on Rockton Ave. Later on I got to know her from working at the Moose Club on N Main & also bowling with her on Monday nights. It would go years where I wouldn't see her, but somewhere just luck of the draw we would see one another & she would always hug me & say "Susie, how are you doing?", just like we had always been in contact. She was a beautiful soul & so loved. My condolences to the entire family but know that beautiful angel will always be watching over all.*



Sue Gutierrez - February 02, 2024 at 07:04 PM

JF

“ *Jason Waldo and family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Esther Eileen Prentice.*



Jason Waldo and family - February 02, 2024 at 05:22 PM

GL

“ *Gary & I are so blessed to have known this wonderful lady. To say she always made us feel like family is an understatement! Thank you for always including us when you had your fall gathering. Fly high with your angel wings, we love you!*  
*Gary & Rose Layne*

Gary & Rose Layne - February 02, 2024 at 03:47 PM

BR

“ *My punkin, my twin, my hunny, my meme! She was a treasure and a joy to any and every single person she met! I am proud to say that my sense of humor and sassy-ness comes solely from her! I LOVE YOU MEMAW!*



---

**Bree** - February 02, 2024 at 03:01 PM