



Judith Ann Schmaltz

May 31, 1943 - May 22, 2025

Judith Ann (Collins) Schmaltz, 81, of Wilbur, passed peacefully from this life in the early morning hours of Thursday, May 22, 2025, while in the care of Franciscan Hospital in Mooresville. She was born on May 31, 1943, in Beech Grove to the late Francis Wayne Collins and Helen Berniece (Wilkins) Laughlin.

The oldest child of 5, and an Army brat, her family frequently moved around, and Judith attended Shortridge High School. Born to be a nurturer, she was tasked with the responsibility of helping raise her younger siblings, earning her the nickname “Momma Jude”. Marrying at a young age, Judith was driven to be self-supportive, securing her first job at the Blue Ribbon restaurant as a car hop. She later worked for Bruning Paint where she was the Union Rep, and finished her career at Queen’s Group, dedicating 26 years of service and deservingly retiring in 2005.

She met the love of her life, Jim Schmaltz and the pair were united in marriage on February 29, 1984. They packed their bags and moved away from the hustle and bustle of city life, settling in Wilbur. Now the wife of a talented musician, Jim and Judith attended many Blue Grass Festivals, traveling the circuit, and hosting parties every Labor Day and on Thanksgiving after dinner was finished.

A true matriarch, Judith fulfilled the role as not only a devoted mother, but as a father as well. She was known to take in anyone in need of assistance, never turning loved ones away, and fed all people who were hungry. Headstrong, she built a world of love and light and lived life on her own terms. She enjoyed bird watching, loved animals, especially dogs, and was a master gardener, canning the fruits of her labor, then bartering her goods to accomplish things that needed done around the house. An extremely talented and crafty woman, Judith knitted, crocheted, and hand-crafted beautiful quilts. Frugal yet giving, she was financially savvy and always in charge. Tiny yet mighty, she was a real spit fire and will be deeply and forever missed by all who were blessed to know her.

Along with her parents, Judith was preceded in death by her husband, James Schmaltz; granddaughter, Deanna Ridell; and siblings, Michael, Patrick, and Stephen Collins, and Deborah Rivers; along with her stepdaughter, Rita Gray.

She leaves behind her children, James Barr (Rhonda) of Plainfield, Teresa Gray of Lewis, Kenneth Barr (April) of Martinsville, Bruce Barr of Martinsville, and Melissa Barr of Martinsville; step sons, Jim Schmaltz (Cindy) of Monrovia, Johnny Schmaltz (Dawn) of Monrovia, and Michael Gray of Avon; nephew who was like a son, Shawn Laughlin of Greenwood; grandchildren, Jamie Jines, Jacob Barr, Ricky Adams, Amanda Burden, Katie Burgess, Lillie Rainey, Ryan Barr, Theo Barr, Morgan Storm, and William Wright; great grandchildren, Maya Domagalski, Melanie Marsh, Zoey Adams, Emerson Burden, Jazzlynn and Freyja Adams, Russell, Emma, and Payton Wright, and Reznor and River Storm, Gavin, Berkley, and Maverick Barr, Andrew Jines, Logan, Flynn, Maren, and Gwen Burgess; and great great grandchild, Lucy Mae Marsh, with another on the way.

Funeral Arrangements have been entrusted to Light Memorial & Funeral Chapel in Monrovia. Visitation will be held on Friday, May 30, 2025, from

11:00am until a Celebration of Life Memorial Service beginning at 1:00pm. Pastor Keenan Steinway will officiate, and burial will follow services in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Hall. To share a favorite story, send an online condolence to the family, or light a candle in Momma Jude's memory, please visit her tribute page at www.lightmemorial.com.

Cemetery Details

Mt Pleasant Cemetery, Hall

5409 W. Hurt Road
Monrovia, IN 46157

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 30. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Light Memorial & Funeral Chapel
585 East Main Street
Monrovia, IN 46157
(317) 996-2101
<https://www.lightmemorial.com>

Celebration of Life Service

MAY 30. 1:00 PM (ET)

Light Memorial & Funeral Chapel
585 East Main Street
Monrovia, IN 46157
(317) 996-2101
<https://www.lightmemorial.com>

Tribute Wall

CC

“ *Condy C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judith Ann Schmaltz.*

Condy C. - May 30, 2025 at 11:33 AM

NB

“ *Nancy B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judith Ann Schmaltz.*

Nancy B. - May 30, 2025 at 11:22 AM



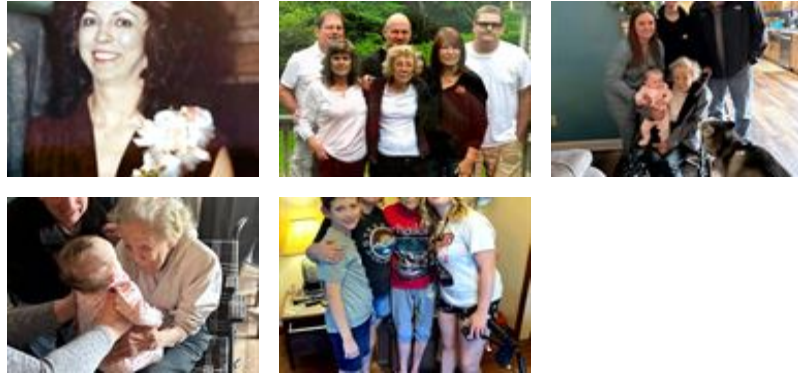
“ *4 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Light Memorial & Funeral Chapel - May 30, 2025 at 09:00 AM



“ 104 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Light Memorial & Funeral Chapel - May 29, 2025 at 11:54 AM



“ Jeff and Jennie Bick purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Judith Ann Schmaltz.



Jeff and Jennie Bick - May 28, 2025 at 06:40 PM



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Light Memorial & Funeral Chapel - May 28, 2025 at 01:00 PM

MB

“ There's too many memories to count, but I'll miss her cooking so much. She could cook a delicious meal for a huge crowd. My favorite was her goulash and potato soup. I've perfected the goulash, but not her potato soup. She would make huge batches of both and freeze it so I could have it whenever I wanted. I'll also miss hearing her tell the same few funny stories of me when I was a little kid. I can recite them even now. The story about when I told her my dad was not only an a-hole, but " a real a-hole," comes to mind. It'd be impossible to summarize a life like my grandma's. She was larger than life. I'll miss her dearly.

Morgan Barr-Storm - May 24, 2025 at 01:13 AM

CR

“ It's been awhile since I've seen momma! I miss when we'd sit around listening to pop play some old songs on his banjo. Or just go a visit and listen to her talk some stories of her past. She was an amazing woman!



Charlee Reece - May 23, 2025 at 10:13 PM

RF

“ Rivers family purchased the Strength & Solace S pray for the family of Judith Ann Schmaltz.



Rivers family - May 23, 2025 at 04:22 PM

RF

“ *Rivers family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judith Ann Schmaltz.*

Rivers family - May 23, 2025 at 04:22 PM

MS

“ *Morgan, Ryan, Reznor & River Storm purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Judith Ann Schmaltz.*



Morgan, Ryan, Reznor & River Storm - May 23, 2025 at 03:48 PM



“ *Was a privilege to work with Judy and meet her husband as well. Prayers for all.*

Phillip Nantz - May 23, 2025 at 03:20 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Judith Ann Schmaltz.*



May 23, 2025 at 02:47 PM