



## Shirley J. Hubbs

November 3, 1940 - April 1, 2024

Shirley J. Hubbs, 83, of East Peoria, passed away peacefully on Monday, April 1, 2024, at Indiana University Hospital West in Indianapolis. She was born on November 3, 1940, in Monmouth, IL, to A. Dewey and Grace (Sawyers) Rhea. Shirley grew up in the small town of Dallas City, IL. She married her husband of 63 years, Jerrold M. Hubbs, on June 5, 1960; he survives.

She is also survived by her two children, Janet (Rev. Gerald) Coates of Avon, Indiana, and Chaplain (Lt. Colonel) John Hubbs of Vicenza, Italy; her “adopted son” Tarcisio (Maria Candida) Kroetz of Curitiba, Brazil; her brother, David (Sigrid) Rhea of Florida; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and four siblings, D. Douglas Rhea, M. Louise Peterson, James S. Rhea, and Larry D. Rhea.

Shirley and her husband Jerrold moved to the East Peoria area in 1963. When her children were young, she worked part-time at the Sears store in Peoria and later as the secretary to the director of the Peoria Christian Center. Once her children reached school age, Shirley was employed by District 86 in East Peoria, first serving at Washington Elementary School as a teacher’s aide and later as the school secretary at Bolin School and Shute School. She loved the children and the staff she worked with.

In retirement, she stayed active, traveling, volunteering at church and the local Mission Mart, and attending a Bible study group. She and Jerrold also loved regular breakfast or lunch meetings with former co-workers from District 86. Giving and serving were characteristic of Shirley’s life. She consistently

served the Lord and His church throughout her lifetime, right up until June 2023, when she first became ill. She had served as a youth worker, a children's worker, a camp counselor, a VBS director, a choir member, and a board member. If there was help needed in food preparation or for an event, she was a ready and willing volunteer.

If Shirley knew of a friend or family member in need, she was prepared to offer her help, her prayers, and her home. If a friend was sick or bereaved, she would have food ready to take to them. If she saw someone needed a coat or gloves, she would be off to the store to make a purchase. If a family member or friend needed a place to stay, her home was open. She had the true gift of biblical hospitality—an open heart and an open home.

Shirley loved her husband, children, and grandchildren deeply. She never met a stranger and had a way of making you feel like a friend the first time you met her. This deep love for people came from her deep love for Jesus.

The family will receive friends from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, April 7, 2024, at Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services in East Peoria. A Funeral Service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, April 8, 2024, at Pekin First Nazarene Church, with additional visitation from 9:30 a.m. until the time of service. Chaplain John Hubbs and Rev. Gerald Coates will officiate. Burial will follow at Fondulac Cemetery in East Peoria.

Memorial contributions may be made to International Childcare Ministries.

Online condolences may be left at [www.GaryDeitersFH.com](http://www.GaryDeitersFH.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Fondulac Cemetery

1985 E. Washington Street  
East Peoria, IL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 7. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services Inc. - East Peoria  
444 E. Washington Street  
East Peoria, IL 61611

## Visitation

APR 8. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Pekin First Church of the Nazarene  
3514 Broadway  
Pekin, IL 61554

## Funeral Service

APR 8. 10:00 AM (CT)

Pekin First Church of the Nazarene  
3514 Broadway  
Pekin, IL 61554



# Tribute Wall



“ Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Shirley J. Hubbs



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**Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services** - April 09, 2024 at 12:18 PM

GB

“ We attended the E.P. Free Methodist Church with Shirley and Jerry. Great people who loved and served our Lord faithfully. Not only active in the church but visited and served outside as well. Shirley will be much missed!

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**Greg Bessler** - May 16, 2024 at 10:07 AM

FF

“ Shirley was part of our JOY Sunday School class. She was also a greeter for the children during Activate on Wednesday nights. She would always ask me about my sons and was so willing to pray for my them when they were going through hard times. She would text me about people who needed prayer. She has been missed since she got sick. We are so grateful for her godly example.

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**Fred and Rosie Furston** - April 08, 2024 at 04:10 PM

FI

“ From your whole team and family in Italy purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Shirley J. Hubbs.



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**From your whole team and family in Italy** - April 08, 2024 at 01:59 PM

JS

“ Shirley was one of the finest examples of Christian Holiness that I have ever met! She was kind, encouraging, and showed her love for the Lord and her fellow men/women in many different ways. She was a faithful and contributing member to the JOY SS Class at PFN. She will be missed!

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**John & Bonnie Sherwood** - April 08, 2024 at 07:54 AM

DW

“ Shirley spread the love of Jesus everywhere. It overflowed from her. So thankful to have known her and will cherish her memory. Prayers for Jerry and the family. I imagine a glorious celebration in Heaven when she arrived.

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**Dianna Wiggins** - April 07, 2024 at 09:53 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Shirley J. Hubbs.



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April 07, 2024 at 11:30 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Shirley J. Hubbs.



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April 07, 2024 at 10:03 AM



“ Ann Halbrooks & Londyn planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley J. Hubbs.

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Ann Halbrooks & Londyn - April 07, 2024 at 10:03 AM



“ Our family is deeply saddened to hear about the loss of Shirley Hubbs, who touched the hearts of everyone she met, including her friends in Brazil. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the Hubbs family: Jerrold, Janet, and John, as well as to the in-laws Gerry and Melody, who made possible the joy of Shirley sharing her love with grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Shirley’s memory will forever be cherished, and her legacy of love and warmth will continue to live on in the hearts of those she touched. I am especially grateful and honored in my life to have been allowed to refer to this incredible and blessed woman as Mom; she will never be forgotten for her love and care.

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Tarcísio Kroetz - April 06, 2024 at 10:28 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Shirley J. Hubbs.



April 06, 2024 at 10:26 PM



“ My heart felt prayers for Jerry and family on the passing of Shirley. May you sense Gods peace and comfort during this time of separation. I'm thankful she and the family share faith in Christ and have the hope to be together again in Heaven one day. Shirley was such a treasure. A Godly woman and prayer warrior. She will be dearly missed.

Hugs and Prayers,

Cathy Hilton Jeffries

Cathy Hilton Jeffries - April 06, 2024 at 06:56 PM



Shirley was a sweet friend. Always had a smile for everyone. She will be missed. But I know someday we will see her in heaven. Sending lots of love and prayers to Jerry and her family.

Karen Little - April 07, 2024 at 08:27 AM



“ Danielle Seyfried & Sharree Grannis purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Shirley J. Hubbs.



Danielle Seyfried & Sharree Grannis - April 05, 2024 at 10:13 PM

TE

“ Terry purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Shirley J. Hubbs.



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**Terry** - April 05, 2024 at 04:53 PM

TE

“ Terry planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley J. Hubbs.

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**Terry** - April 05, 2024 at 04:53 PM

LK

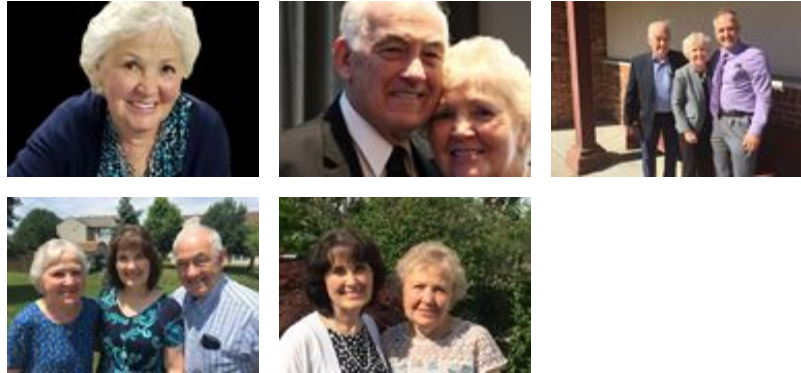
“ Many years ago, I got to work with Sshirley at Shute and Bolin. I remember her kindness and her caring. She would often stop what she was doing to help me.  
I also remember working with Jerry. We were at Central junior high when computers were first introduced to us. Jerry seemed to catch on quickly and was ready to help others when needed.  
He often spoke lovingly and kindly about Shirley. It makes me so happy to know their family will be there for him.  
May God wrap His loving and understanding arms around them all.  
Sincerely,  
Kathey Long

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**Long Kathey** - April 05, 2024 at 02:36 PM



“ 35 files added to the album Life Tributes



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - April 05, 2024 at 12:56 PM



“ Nita and I wish to express our sincere condolences to Jerry and the family regarding the passing of beloved Shirley. She is now with the Lord and we will see her again one day. Please know that we are praying that you will experience God's peace and comfort at this time. God loves you and will sustain you. We have many fond memories that will last a lifetime. ((HUGS))

John and Nita Edwards - April 05, 2024 at 11:04 AM



“ Leonardo Matt and Family purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Shirley J. Hubbs.



Leonardo Matt and Family - April 04, 2024 at 10:13 PM

MF

“ Mrs. Wanda A. Rhea, Larry D. Rhea, Jr., and Family purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Shirley J. Hubbs.



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**Mrs. Wanda A. Rhea, Larry D. Rhea, Jr., and Family** - April 04, 2024 at 10:00 PM

MF

“ Mrs. Wanda A. Rhea, Larry D. Rhea, Jr., and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley J. Hubbs.

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**Mrs. Wanda A. Rhea, Larry D. Rhea, Jr., and Family** - April 04, 2024 at 10:00 PM

MR

“ Our deepest Condolences to Jerrold, Janet, John, David Rhea and your Family for the loss of your Wife, Mother and Sister. We Pray for your complete healing. We are praying with you, and for you. Hold all of those amazing memories in your heart, and that way Shirley will be with you today and forever. Heaven hath no sorrow that God our Father in Heaven can not heal. May God's grace, mercy, and blessings be upon you today and forever. Shirley will never be forgotten. Rest in Peace in the Lord.



*Love, Mrs. Wanda A. Rhea, Larry D. Rhea, Jr., and Family*

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**Mrs. Rhea** - April 04, 2024 at 08:24 PM

AI

“ *Aldersgate Free Methodist Church, Indian purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Shirley J. Hubbs.*



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**Aldersgate Free Methodist Church, Indian** - April 04, 2024 at 10:32 AM

PC

“ *Pat, Stephanie, and Jim Casey purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Shirley J. Hubbs.*



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**Pat, Stephanie, and Jim Casey** - April 04, 2024 at 10:15 AM

CH

“ *I'm so sorry for ur loss, Mrs. Hubs was so sweet and loving lady and was the secretary when I went to Paul Bolin school and she used to live in ep close to my parents and I would deliver her newspaper when I was younger. She will for ever missed*

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**Christy (Martin) Harris** - April 04, 2024 at 10:14 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Shirley J. Hubbs.*



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April 04, 2024 at 09:12 AM

AV

“ So sorry, i send a hug to all the Hubbs family from Sevilla, Spain. She was Such a sweet person, i had the blessings to meet her when i lived in EP 40 years ago

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**Andres Osuna Vera** - April 04, 2024 at 06:51 AM



“ I'm so very sorry to hear about Shirley's passing. She was the secretary at Bolin when my two children went there around 1990 and 21 years ago I started working at Shute and became a coworker with Shirley. Such a sweet lady. She will be missed by many.

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**Debbie Martin** - April 04, 2024 at 12:39 AM