



## Wilma J. Brinker

March 9, 1946 - January 15, 2025

Wilma J. Brinker, 78, of East Peoria, passed away on January 15, 2025, at Carle Methodist Hospital in Peoria. She was born on March 9, 1946, in Anthony, KS, en route from Norfolk, Virginia to Port Hueneme California, to Amsa and Catherine (Penello) Ellison. She married Donald Brinker, Sr. in January 1970. They celebrated 55 years of marriage together; he survives. Also surviving are her children Toni (Steven) Gruenwald of Normal, Sheri (Jonathan) Heins of Mesa, AZ, and Don, Jr. (Katherine) Brinker of Tucson, AZ; sister Barbara Ottwell of Montana; seven grandchildren, Joey (Lindsay) and Catie Gruenwald, Nina, Halle, and Mira Heins, and Abby and AJ Brinker; and three great-grandchildren, Kolbe, Josephine, and John Paul.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one sister.

Wilma worked as a commercial paralegal for Johnson, Bunce & Noble in Peoria for 37 years.

Above all, she cherished being a Mom, Grandma/Nana, and Great Grandma. Her greatest joys came from sharing in their adventures, attending their events, and just being around her family.

Visitation will be from 10-11 a.m. on Saturday, February 1, 2025, at Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services in East Peoria, with a Memorial Service beginning at 11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Online condolences may be left at [www.GaryDeitersFH.com](http://www.GaryDeitersFH.com).



# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

FEB 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

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

## Memorial Service

FEB 1. 11:00 AM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall



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



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**Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services** - February 01, 2025 at 01:55 PM

MF

“ Much Love, Nancy Klingerman & Family purchased the Forever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of Wilma J. Brinker.

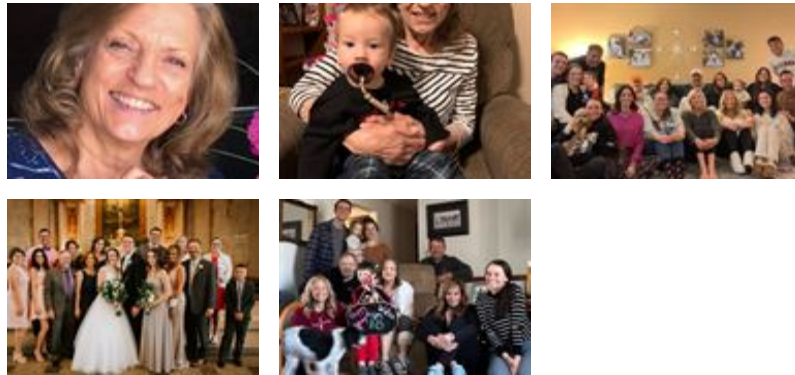


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**Much Love, Nancy Klingerman & Family** - January 26, 2025 at 12:49 PM



“ 31 files added to the album LifeTributes



**Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services** - January 23, 2025 at 04:29 PM

RL

“ I remember so fondly of fishing with Wima and Don. Also having walleye dinners at the old Shamrock. I am deeply saddened by her passing, and send our deepest sympathies. Would love to hear from Don. Bob and Janice Lansford.

**Robert Lansford** - January 23, 2025 at 01:36 PM

MS

“ Wilma was a very rare and unique woman. She was my mentor while working at Johnson, Bunce and Noble back in the 90's. She was kind and caring above all. Wilma never spoke ill of anyone, and was a loving wife and mother, and a friend. I am sorry to have lost touch with her after several moves, but never did I forget our time shared. My deepest sympathy to her family. She will be missed but never forgotten.



**Maureen Stegmaier** - January 23, 2025 at 08:52 AM

FJ

“ *Wilma was always upbeat and friendly. Don't remember her saying anything negative about anyone. She will be missed. Rick*

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**Frederick Johnson** - January 22, 2025 at 10:55 AM

BJ

“ *Wilma was truly a great person!*

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**Brian Johnson** - January 22, 2025 at 10:44 AM