



Minnie L Pfingsten

May 26, 1920 - April 12, 2025

Minnie was born on May 26, 1920, and peacefully passed away on April 12, 2025, surrounded by her family. She was one of five kids who walked multiple miles to school each day carrying their lunch pails, milked the three cows, and—while they didn't have “real toys”—entertained themselves with their sleds. In her early years, she traveled to California, New York City, and the World's Fair. Her claim to fame was her three appearances as a dancer on The Lawrence Welk Show. She was 17 when she began working as a nurse at St. James Hospital and found her calling in caring for others. In 1950, she met and married the love of her life, Elmer. Together, they had five kids, who gave them 11 grandkids and 11 great-grandkids. Minnie enjoyed dressing the girls in their dresses and polished shoes to have dinner as a family. Life in the Pfingsten house was never boring with the farm, the five kids, and Minnie's menagerie of rescued and adopted

animals, including cats, dogs, goats, birds, rabbits, and pigs.

As Minnie and Elmer grew older, they braved the elements to watch local grandkids at

sporting events. They treasured moments spent celebrating holidays, birthdays, and

special occasions. They carved out time for family that was farther away and made many

trips to warmer locations like Texas, California, and one of her favorite places, the Virgin

Islands.

Minnie played cards with her sisters for many years, and as the years went on, she

introduced her kids, grandkids, and great grandkids to the game Phase 10.

She would

shake her finger at you when you had a good hand and then encourage you to “stick it to

’em” when someone else was in the lead.

Minnie had a very sentimental side, keeping cards, tickets, programs, kids’ art projects,

and other meaningful things that reminded her of those she loved. She had a unique way

of helping each person, she connected with feel heard, understood, and loved.

She loved flowers, gardening, birds, and the color pink. She also got to witness her

favorite sports team, the Chicago Cubs, win the World Series! She couldn’t get enough

family time and spent countless hours baking throughout the year. The most special

tradition was her famous Christmas brunch with no fewer than 20 different kinds of

pastries and cookies. Her most famous sugar cookies were so thin there was “nowhere

for the flavor to hide,” according to her grandsons.

When Minnie lost Elmer, she continued to attend her great grandkids’ performances and

sporting events—and this past year, even attended her very first cheer competition!

In her later years, people marveled at her extraordinary memory, her “with-it” factor, and

her ability to navigate the world of iPads and social media. Her motto was, “If you don’t

keep up with the times, they will leave you behind!”

Minnie is preceded in death by her husband, Elmer, and her grandson, Morgan Steigely. She

will be deeply missed by her children, Paulette Meiner (Donald), Patti Bernhard (David),

Pamela Spong (Michael), Penny Pfingsten, and Robert Pfingsten Sr. (Jedie), and by her

10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to:

<https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html>

<https://ci.easterseals.com/take-action/make-a-donation>

Cemetery Details

Union Corners

Grant Park, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 18. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St Peter's United Church of Christ
310 N Meadow St
Grant Park, IL

Funeral Service

APR 18. 11:00 AM (CT)

St Peter's United Church of Christ
310 N Meadow St
Grant Park, IL

Tribute Wall

PW

“ Bud & I are thinking of you as you remember all that Minnie was. When meeting her (and spending only a few hours in her presence), we sensed her extraordinary spirit. May you all find comfort in each other's presence as you carry on, living in her wonderful legacy. Lifting you up with love & hope.



Phyllis Wulliman - April 18, 2025 at 12:17 PM

KO

“ Mrs. Pfingsten (Minnie, who are we kidding?) was a very sweet lady, who always took good care of us while Bob and I (and others) were running around causing trouble in and around your family's house as kids. What a blessed, long life. We will keep her and your family in our prayers during this Easter season.

Kevin and Mary O'Grady - April 18, 2025 at 09:46 AM

LM

“ Lisa Fisher and Traci Monson purchased the Heavenly Heights Bouquet for the family of Minnie L Pfingsten.



Lisa Fisher and Traci Monson - April 17, 2025 at 12:57 PM

MG

“ Michele Mark & Russell Goldman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Minnie L Pfingsten.

Michele Mark & Russell Goldman - April 16, 2025 at 06:57 PM

MG

“ Michele Mark & Russell Goldman purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Minnie L Pfingsten.



Michele Mark & Russell Goldman - April 16, 2025 at 06:57 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Minnie L Pfingsten.

April 16, 2025 at 07:32 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Minnie L Pfingsten.



April 16, 2025 at 07:32 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Minnie L Pfingsten.

April 15, 2025 at 03:21 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Minnie L Pfingsten.*



April 15, 2025 at 03:21 PM



“ *Paulette, Patti, Pam, Penny, Bob and families
Our sympathy to you as you grieve your loss. I have fond memories of spending time at the Pfingsten home and Minnie welcoming and tolerating all the noisy teenage girls.
God bless you with comfort of wonderful memories.*

Neil & Ruth(Bernhard) Herzog - April 15, 2025 at 03:18 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Minnie L Pfingsten.*

April 15, 2025 at 02:02 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Minnie L Pfingsten.*



April 15, 2025 at 02:02 PM

AM

“ Angelique Mango planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Minnie L Pfingsten.

Angelique Mango - April 15, 2025 at 08:21 AM

AM

“ Angelique Mango purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Minnie L Pfingsten.



Angelique Mango - April 15, 2025 at 08:21 AM