

# JESSIE HELENE (EMERSON) GERMAN



Jessie Helene (Emerson) German, 88, peacefully passed away in the presence of family on January 26, 2024, at the Munson Hospice House in Traverse City, Michigan. Remembered for her warm heart, tender kindness, and abundant natural talents, Jessie was born in Steuben County, Indiana on May 8, 1935. Jessie was one of six siblings who grew up on an idyllic farm raising cattle and crops. President and

valedictorian of her high school class, Jessie went on to receive both her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Elementary Education from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. At Ball State, Jessie was a member of Delta Zeta sorority and several other campus clubs. After moving to Lafayette, Indiana to teach elementary school, she met Jack Richard German whom she married on June 20, 1965; the couple raised two daughters Ginger (German) Kadlec of Traverse City, Michigan, and Valerie (German) Jackovic of Sewickley, Pennsylvania. A talented musician, Jessie was gifted with the ability to play piano by ear. Most recently a member of the Sewickley Presbyterian Church in Pennsylvania, Jessie was a member of the church's bell choir. Throughout her life, Jessie enjoyed playing organ, and baking and was a skilled seamstress. The proud "Gram" to two grandsons, Jessie cherished time with her family and was known as the "pet whisperer" by family and friends for the loving, gentle connection she established with animals. She had a talent for winning at games and repeatedly took top billing in her family's annual March Madness basketball pools. Jessie was preceded in death by her parents, James and Eva Emerson (Steuben County, Indiana; her husband, Jack (Lafayette, Indiana); her sister, Barbara (Emerson) Hatch (Texas); and brother, John Emerson (Tennessee). Surviving Jessie are daughters, Ginger Kadlec (John), and Valerie Jackovic (Terry); grandsons, Collin Jackovic (Washington, DC), and Ryan Jackovic (West Lafayette, Indiana); and sisters, Lois (Emerson) Dunten (Indianapolis, Indiana), Emilyn (Emerson) Hughes (Angola, Indiana), and Beth (Emerson) Gardner (Midland, Michigan). Jessie's family is grateful for the exceptional personal and medical care provided to Jessie by the professionals in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at UPMC, and in Traverse City, Michigan at Munson Medical Center, French Manor Assisted Living, Traverse Heart and Vascular, Cass Street EMT, West Front Primary Care, and Munson Hospice House. A Memorial Service will be scheduled later this year as Jessie is laid to rest in Steuben County, Indiana. In lieu of flowers, family and friends are encouraged to make a donation to the charity of their choice or the Sewickley Presbyterian Church (Sewickley, Pennsylvania), Meals on Wheels (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania), First Responder Support Network (San Rafael, California) or Traverse Bay Children's Advocacy Center (Traverse City, Michigan)

Send condolences [post-gazette.com/gb](http://post-gazette.com/gb)