



## Rita J. Hilbert

November 9, 1931 - February 17, 2024

Rita J. McGunegill Hilbert, 92, of Cambridge City, passed away at her home on Saturday, February 17, 2024.

She was born near Losantville on November 9, 1931 to Frank and Flossie (Cougill) McGunegill and lived most of her life in the Cambridge City area.

Rita was a 1949 graduate of Losantville High School. She attended Butler University and graduated from Ball State. For 34 years, she was a teacher at Central School in Cambridge City.

On December 20, 1969 she married Harold D. Hilbert and he preceded her in death in 2013.

She was a dedicated member of Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren where she played organ and piano.

Survivors include 2 stepsons, Danny Hilbert (Julie) and Larry Hilbert (Carmen); 4 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; 2 nephews, Robert Gable (Laura) and Bruce Gable (Elizabeth); 4 nieces, Suzanne Moore, Jane Byrum (Fred), Jo Claire Byrum and Elaine Byrum.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by 2

sisters, Louise Byrum and Jean Gable, as well as 3 brothers-in-law, William Hilbert, Hubert Byrum and Vernon Gable.

Visitation will be 10 to 11 AM on Thursday, February 22, at Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren. Services will follow at 11 AM. Pastor Brian Mackie will officiate. Burial will be in Brick Cemetery.

The family wishes to express their sincere thanks to a special friend, Sally Schmittler, and to the wonderful caregivers of Guardian At Home and Reid Hospice Care.

Memorials may be made to Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren.

# Cemetery Details

## Brick Cemetery

5352 N. Brick Church Rd.  
Hagerstown, IN 47346

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 22. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren  
5352 N. Brick Church Rd.  
Hagerstown, IN

## Service

FEB 22. 11:00 AM (ET)

Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren  
5352 N. Brick Church Rd.  
Hagerstown, IN

# Tribute Wall

CM

“ Our Great Aunt Rita was one of the most selfless, caring, kind, and generous people I have ever met. Her patience and love of teaching others is reflected but the kind words of others here. Heaven has a new angel, we will all miss her greatly.

Carey Moore

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Carey Moore - February 22, 2024 at 04:14 PM

TA

“ Traci A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rita J. Hilbert.

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Traci A. - February 21, 2024 at 08:29 PM

RH

“ My 3rd grade teacher who was able to recognize that was able to see I was struggling with reading backwards .. upon so , put me in a program called remedial reading! Which allowed me special time with Mrs. Cole!  
Both angels ! God has gained someone special  
Thank you Miss Hilbert ...

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Rhonda - February 20, 2024 at 07:01 PM

SH

Rita was our Great Aunt. I have very fond memories of playing at her house with our Great Uncle Harold. Oh the adventures we had! She was a beautiful woman with so much to give. She will be sorely missed.  
Love,  
Sabrina Harvey (Moore)

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Sabrina Harvey - February 22, 2024 at 09:34 AM

DL

“ I was fortunate to have Rita McGunegill as my third grade teacher. She was a shining example of how one should treat other people. She was respectful and kind, had a good sense of humor, and motivated me to do my best like no one before or after. In my mind she was a model teacher, the kind of person every teacher should aspire to be. When I saw her from time to time over the years, she always remembered me and was still the same wonderful person I knew in third grade, all those years ago. I am thankful I knew her and benefitted from her guidance and friendship.

David Locke - February 20, 2024 at 12:04 AM

LL

When I was a young man and freshly married Rita and Harold were my neighbors on Washington Street. She was a very nice and sweet lady to myself and my wife always. My wife and I liked them both very much. I am saddened by the news of her passing.

Lance Lumpkin - February 20, 2024 at 04:50 PM

GC

“ Miss McGunegell was a wonderful teacher, gentle and kind, and taught us how to write cursive, amongst many other things. She always dressed impeccably. Through her educational success, it encouraged me to teach for 40 years.

Gary Cole - February 19, 2024 at 08:35 PM

JS

“ Miss McGunegill was my 3rd grade teacher at Central School in Cambridge City. She made such an impression on me and I thought she was beautiful. I feel lucky that she touched my life.

Jane Henderson Soffe - February 19, 2024 at 08:21 PM

DB

*Miss McGunegill was my 3rd grade teacher. She helped me in Arithmetic & All the Studies We had then. I'd always go back & visit Her @ Central. One of the things She did from time to time, She would Read aloud to the class . One time it would be about Martha Washington, Another Time, about Paul Bunion , The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, Brear Rabbit , All of WALT DISNEY's AMERICAN FOLKLORE ..... "WHEN WALT WAS IN DISNEY" ! MISS McGunegill, was like Mom away from Mom. I really started to enjoy Reading from Her. As well as learning social studies , Civics ( 3rd grade) & English.*

*One Time I'll always remember,  
A rainy November afternoon,  
Central School, to my remembrance, didn't have an intercom system.  
But they would have kids go around bringing messages to the Teachers, MISS McGunegill called the class to attention,  
& read , That President Kennedy was Shot. She had all of us at our desk have silent prayer. This stayed with me to this day. I was blessed to have her as my Teacher. The Lord will Reward Her Richly.*

*Daniel Boyer.*

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**Daniel P. Boyer** - February 27, 2024 at 10:38 AM

MS

*As my classmates Gary Cole and Jane Henderson Soffe have already written, Miss McGunegill was a wonderful teacher and person. We were fortunate to have many good teachers and she certainly was one of them. The fact that so many former students have fond memories of her all these years later is proof of that.*

*Mike Seffrin*

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**Mike Seffrin** - February 27, 2024 at 09:09 PM