



Shirley J. Benz

January 19, 1936 - January 12, 2026

MORENCI- Shirley Joan (Warner) Benz, age 89, former resident of Onsted and Blissfield, Michigan, passed away on Monday, January 12, 2026, under the care of Hospice of Lenawee at Caring Dunn Right Senior Living in Morenci, Michigan where she had been a resident for the last 8 months.

Shirley Benz was born on January 19, 1936, in Adrian, Michigan, the daughter of Myrtle (Jenkins) Warner. When Shirley was 3 yrs old, she and her sister, Norma, were blessed to have Gerald “Jerry” Phillips join their family when he married their mother, Myrtle. Jerry was the best father and greatly loved.

Shirley graduated from Adrian High School in 1953. She worked at Adrian State Bank. It was in 1958, when Shirley met her future husband, William “Bill” Frank Benz. Shirley knew immediately that Bill was the love of her life; and after a 3-month courtship they were married on March 7, 1959, at the United Presbyterian Church in Palmyra, MI. Shirley worked at Kewaunee Scientific Corporation Plant in Adrian.

Shirley and Bill were founders of Blissfield Automotive Parts Incorporated (NAPA); where she was the bookkeeper for over 20 years, serving the local community. Shirley had a wide range of interests including shopping, line dancing, bird watching, being a “groupie” for her friend’s son’s band, reading and going to casinos with Bill. She also served at the First Presbyterian

Church for funeral dinners. Shirley and Bill celebrated 52 years of marriage before his death in 2011.

She is survived by her son, Jeffrey (Dawn) Benz; grandchildren, Brianna, Jordan and Jaxsen of Onsted, MI; her brother, Edd (Barb) Phillips of Celina, TN; and many nieces and nephews. In addition to her husband, Bill, Shirley was preceded in death by her parents, Myrtle and Gerald Phillips; daughter, Kimberly Sue; sister, Norma and her husband, Jack McDonald; former sisters-in-law, Linda (Keiser) Phillips and Linda (Clear) Phillips and nieces, Leslie Nachtrab and Tina Hessel.

A memorial service to celebrate Shirley's life will be on Friday, February 6, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. at Wagley Funeral Chapel, Tagsold Chapel in Blissfield with Rev. Zachary Mabee as celebrant. Visitation will take place on Thursday, February 5, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the funeral home; and again, one hour before the service. Burial will be private at Lenawee Hills Memorial Park, Adrian.

Online condolences and memories may be shared at www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Lenawee Hills Memorial Park

1291 Wolf Creek Hwy.
Adrian, MI 49221

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

FEB 5. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home Tagsold Chapel (Blissfield)
301 S. Lane St.
Blissfield, MI 49228
(517) 486-2133
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

Memorial Gathering

FEB 6. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home Tagsold Chapel (Blissfield)
301 S. Lane St.
Blissfield, MI 49228
(517) 486-2133
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

Memorial Service

FEB 6. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home Tagsold Chapel (Blissfield)

301 S. Lane St.

Blissfield, MI 49228

(517) 486-2133

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Tribute Wall

DD

“ We had so many good times together and laughed about things that no one could understand what it was we were laughing at....but your grandpa knew we were up to something...he usually had an idea and a lot of times he was part of it....and now you are dancing with Bill!

You will be missed by many.

Diane

Diane Draper - February 02 at 05:04 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Shirley J. Benz.



February 02 at 05:26 AM

SL

“ Sue Lightfoot lit a candle in memory of Shirley Benz



Sue Lightfoot - January 31 at 01:05 AM

BB

“ Grandma you were such a light in my life. I will miss you and all of our laughs together, our spontaneous shopping trips, late night game show network watching family feud and whammy, dancing in the car to Jimmy Buffet, and trying martinis in my 21st birthday (not your fav lol, you'll just stick to occasional mint mistletoes! but that was one good memory!) I am so lucky to have had you as a grandmother, and had the privilege to know and love you. I promise to make you proud Grandma. Have fun dancing up there.



Bri Benz - January 30 at 11:35 PM