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Ida Marguerite Zugelder Pettay

July 2, 1914 - Feb. 16, 2006

Ida Marguerite Zugelder Pettay began her journey on July 2, 1914, near Bebe, Ark. She was the first daughter of Edward Henry Zugelder and Annie Storey. Her earliest memories were full of nature walks with her mother and siblings in the hills of Arkansas, where they gathered food nature provided. Her childhood was humble but rich in being. She did not have many dolls, but at an early age helped nurture six younger sisters and brother: Helen Schawitsch, Catherine Smith (deceased), Dorothy Pettay (deceased 2005), Esther Louise Baldwin (deceased), Annie "Pinky" Baldwin, and Fines Zugelder. Undoubtedly, she became a caregiver in her earliest years. Her oldest brother, William Henry Zugelder, preceded her in death.

By 1920 the Zugelder family had settled in Kokomo. Marguerite graduated valedictorian of her class at Greentown High School in 1932. She became a Registered Nurse in 1936 upon graduation from the Good Samaritan School of Nursing along with five other women, including Eileen Huston (formerly of Galveston), who would become her lifelong friend. Upon becoming RNs, both were employed at St. Joseph Hospital in Kokomo. Early in this time, one of Marguerite's patients was Gene Pettay (Clarence Eugene Pettay, deceased 1979). Marguerite and Gene were married in Kokomo at her parents' home on Nov. 19, 1937.

The Pettays soon bought a farm outside of Lincoln, Ind. They were blessed with five sons, Carl Eugene (deceased 1978), Dan and wife Suzanne, Lee and wife Dianet, Ray (deceased 1956), and Ted and wife Cathy. Their lives were full and good. They eventually had the Lazy P Riding Stables outside of Peru, that in their later days served as their home while they traveled extensively. Unfortunately, their retirement was cut short prematurely upon Mr. Pettay's passing. Soon after, Marguerite enjoyed her sisters, friends, grandchildren and gardening.

Marguerite's later years were full with her three sons and their growing families. Life took her full circle with her grandchildren, Karen Pettay, Eric Pettay, Patrick and wife Cristy Pettay, Robert Pettay (deceased), Jennifer Pettay (deceased), Tanya and husband John Riddle, Tyler and wife Marcia Pettay, Jordan Pettay, Scott Pettay, Marguerite Pettay, Alison Pettay and Clayton Pettay, all of whom brought her immense pleasure, joy and love. She also had four great-grandchildren, Shawneci Pettay, Cole Pettay, Kelvin Pettay and Cade Lyle.

She retired from the nursing profession in 1976 from Turtle Creek Convalescent Center in Kokomo. Earlier in her career she was a private duty nurse working 365 nights a year for 11 years, missing one week in this entire period. She attended services at Morning Star Church in Kokomo.

Her journey on this earth ended Thursday, Feb. 16, 2006, at 9:28 p.m. Marguerite walked gently upon this earth, always giving back more than she took, always putting others before herself. Our beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother will be missed; but we carry her lessons mindfully into tomorrow and will cherish our memories and hold her love close to our hearts.

Services are 1 p.m. today at Ellers Mortuary Webster Street Chapel, 3400 S. Webster St., with the Rev. Harold E. Williams officiating. Burial will follow at the Galveston Cemetery. Friends may call from 11 a.m. today until service time. Memorials may be made to The Alzheimers Association, 9135 N. Meridian St., Ste. B-4, Indianapolis, IN 46209-7109. Envelopes will also be available at the mortuary.

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