



## Elizabeth "Bette" J. (Perkinson) Calkins

February 24, 1941 - August 29, 2018

Elizabeth "Bette" J. Calkins, of Bloomington, Indiana passed away on August 29, 2018 at IU Bloomington Health Hospital.

Bette was born in Decatur, Illinois to Myron Boyer and Rhoda (Prather) Perkinson. Her family moved to Fort Wayne, IN when she was a toddler and then later to Toledo, Ohio where she attended The University of Toledo receiving her Bachelor of Education Degree in 1962 and her Master of Education Degree in 1965 specializing in early childhood education. She received her Education Specialist Degree majoring in Reading and Language Arts, from Indiana University in 1975. She began teaching in Toledo, 7 years, then when her family (husband and son) moved to Bloomington, she taught 31 years, retiring in 2000. Bette was a member of Faith Lutheran Church and is a retired life member of the Indiana State Teachers Association and the National Education Association. She was a 50-year member of the Order of the Eastern Star, having served as Worthy Matron for several years and as a secretary for an additional 10 years.

Bette is survived by her husband, Gerald Calkins; son, David (Diana Buchanan) Calkins; 2 granddaughters, Elizabeth (Libby) A. Calkins and Lauren M. Calkins of Indianapolis; a brother, Edward (Sue) Myron Perkinson of Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Bette is preceded in death by her parents.

Memorial Service will be held at 6:00 P.M. on Thursday, September 6, 2018 at Faith Lutheran Church. Friends may visit from 5:00 P.M. until service time at the church. Burial will be in Pemberville Cemetery in Pemberville, Ohio at a later date. In Lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Faith Lutheran Preschool and Childcare Program, 2200 S High Street, Bloomington, IN 47401.

You are invited to share a memory or leave an online condolence to Bette's family at [www.allencares.com](http://www.allencares.com)

# Comments

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“ I always admired Bette's determination. I was her Y arthritis aquatics instructor about ten years ago. She would come in and do the class. It looked like it took great effort. After class she and Jerry would leave together - until the next class. We ran into each other again in July 2013 when my mother-in-law overlapped with Bette at Bell Trace. She was a kind and lovely person. May her memory be for a blessing.

**Karen Franks** - September 09, 2018 at 05:29 PM

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“ We are deeply saddened to hear of Aunt Bette Jo's passing. I remember when she and Jerry came to stay with us when our parents went to Sweden. She was always kind and nurturing to us. We have lost a beautiful soul, but we take comfort in knowing that she is in a better place. Our hearts and prayers are with your family. Janet & Dennis Bower and family

**Janet & Dennis Bower and family** - September 04, 2018 at 12:07 PM

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“ Mrs. Calkins was my son Louie's first grade teacher at Dyer. She made ceramic Christmas ornaments for her students and signed the back of each one. To this day, we hang that "Mrs. Claus" ornament every December and remember Mrs. Calkins, Now my son is 40 years old and has a 6-year-old son of his own.

The good teacher is gone but not forgotten.  
Sharon Roualet

**Sharon M Roualet** - September 01, 2018 at 12:15 PM

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“ I'm so sorry to learn of Bette's passing. I treasure a hand crocheted baby blanket she made for my first child in 1980. It now is loved by my grandchildren. Bette was a master teacher and as a colleague I learned a great deal from her.

**Deborah Wessel** - September 01, 2018 at 07:35 AM

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“ Bette was a lovely lady and a wonderful teacher. My children Alex and Meredith Coffey had her as their first grade teacher. They loved Mrs. Calkins! When my daughter was in first grade Bette saw how advanced she was and she suggested moving her to third grade the next school year. She was very interested in my daughter's success in school and it was a good decision to move Meredith. I saw

Bette several years ago at Redbud and I am so thankful I got the chance to tell her how much she meant to our family. She was a great teacher and we appreciated her so much. I am truly sorry for your loss. Your family is in my prayers.

**Lisa Coffey Stieglitz** - August 31, 2018 at 08:16 AM