



Alberta Mae "Bert" McConnell

April 7, 1947 - July 11, 2025

Alberta Mae McConnell, "Bert", of Bloomington, IN passed away July 11, 2025.

On April 7th, 1947, in Elkinsville, IN, Alberta was born to parents Albert and Katherine Cross.

She married Larry McConnell on June 2nd, 1978, and they began a life together along with her three girls. She retired from the Social Security Administration after 30 years of service. She and Larry farmed and raised cattle for 40 years in southwest Monroe County. They worked hard at farming and at one time they had over 100 cows they managed. They were instrumental in the forming of, and she served as secretary for the Indiana Beef Alliance, LLC, which brought farmers together to learn more about stewardship and caring for cattle. In 2005, they were honored to be named both Monroe County Farm Family of the year and Indiana River Friendly Farmer. This award was presented by Becky Skillman, the Lt. Governor at the time.

In addition to farming, they also loved to raise Iris, Hosta, Day Lilies, and many other beautiful flowers. They surrounded their home with these beautiful flowers and a big garden every year. She and Larry are members of the Southern Indiana Daylily, Hosta, Daffodil & Iris Society.

Together, they also loved woodworking and making beautiful pieces of art. In the last 6-8 years they could be found at many of the craft or quilt shows around the area. Their beautiful cutting boards, benches, quilt racks, and charcuterie boards were always a favorite at the shows.

Bert was a quilter and belonged to the Bedford based Quarry Quilters Quilt Guild. This love of quilting was passed from her mom, Katie Cross, and through the years, she honed her love of quilting so much that she was recognized in many quilting competitions. She was most proud that she had made each of her girls a Christmas Quilt. As she finished each of quilts, being a member of the Walk A Lot Home Demonstration Club, she entered each one in the Open Class at the Monroe County Fair. When entered, each one of the quilts earned a Grand Champion ribbon.

Even though they worked hard, Bert and Larry also loved to travel in their retirement years. There were many good memories made by her and Larry, or her and one of the girls taking an adventure. Bert was always up for having fun and seeing new things.

She was a wonderful wife, mom, mother-in-law, grandma, great-grandma, daughter, sister, sister-in-law, aunt and friend.

Bert will be greatly missed by her husband, Larry, and her children: Stephanie Whitaker (Bob), Christina Richardson (Jay), and Cathy Halter (Shawn). Her cherished grandchildren: Jonathon Whitaker (Abby), Zach Burton (Savanah Craig), Alex Halter (Alivia Smith), and her great-grandchildren: Merida Whitaker and Lee Whitaker, as well as the many wonderful friends she has made along her life's journey.

She was the eighth of ten children born to Albert and Katherine Cross. She

leaves behind her sisters: Dorothy Lutes (Bill), Rose Hatton, Linda Lane and Sister-in-Law Janet Cross. Sister/brother in-laws: Jerry McConnell (Roz), Orland McConnell (Andrea), Keith McConnell (Trudy), Judy Childers (Mike), Patty Perney and Jonetta Tesh. She was also "Aunt Bert" to many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her siblings, Albert Cross (Thelma), Fred Cross (Ginger), Rodney Cross, brother-in-law Don Hatton, Bob Cross (Carol), Beverly Blankenfield (Richard), brother-in-law Jerry Sample, infant baby brother Gary Dean Cross, adopted brother James Frailey, nephew Gregory Hatton, and nieces Valerie Edmonds and Mary Katherine Nazzari, her in-laws, Wayne and Ellen McConnell and brother-in-law Paul McConnell.

Heartfelt gratitude from Bert's family go out to the many wonderful doctors and nurses that cared for her at IU Health Hospitals, Simon Cancer Center, Bloomington Regional Rehabilitation Hospital, and Hospice House.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to the Indiana University Health Hospice House.

Funeral services for Bert will be held Friday, July 18, 2025 at 11 AM in the morning at the Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Old State Rd. 37. Burial will follow the Carmichael Cemetery. Visitation will be held also at Allen Funeral Home on Thursday, July 17, 2025 from 4 PM in the afternoon until 8 PM in the evening.

Online condolences, photos, and memories may be shared with friends and family at www.allencares.com

Cemetery Details

Carmichael Cemetery

13773 Carmichael Road
Bloomfield, IN 47424

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 17. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
4155 S. Old State Road 37
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 824-5905
<http://www.allencares.com>

Funeral Service

JUL 18. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
4155 S. Old State Road 37
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 824-5905
<http://www.allencares.com>

Tribute Wall

JT

“ Bert was one of our Quarry Quilters members and will be missed by all. I have an iris flower bed filled with her hybrid irises. She delivered about 150 bulbs and provided the names of each. What a wonder gift from her that blooms each year and reminds me of Bert. My condolences to the family. May your heart be filled with the memories of her love and passion. Joyce

Joyce Tolliver-Wilson - July 18, 2025 at 01:18 AM

DT

“ I always enjoyed visiting with Bert at Extension events. She was a kind and generous person. She will be greatly missed.

Deanna Turner - July 17, 2025 at 10:57 PM

SE

“ It is hard to express the impact your parent's had on us at the shop. They were, as you know, a force of nature and we admired their talent, work ethic, and obvious love for one another and their work. I dare say we were in awe.

Your mom and I had a long talk on your folk's last visit in March. She told me about her allergic reaction to her blood pressure medicine and finding the cancer as a result of further tests. She also was so determined to fight it and told me she would not complain, except to the doctors whom she felt were treating her with kid gloves. She said something like, "Look at me, do you think I can't handle this?" We never doubted she would give this fight her all.

The world's light has dimmed from the loss of your mom and her art, but we know that she lives on through the impact she had on her family, friends, and community. We are grateful to have known her and represent your parents at the shop. If there is anything that we can do for you all and your dad, please don't hesitate to reach out.

With love and gratitude,

Sam and the entire team at Goods for Cooks

Samantha Eibling - July 17, 2025 at 09:51 AM

BE

“ With courage and strength, Aunt Alberta always reminded me of a force to be reckoned with. She rose above all the early battles that life threw at her, became a career woman, met a good man, and raised 3 strong girls in her image. I will always be thankful for her, and the other strong minded Cross women, who paved the way forward in this world, and made it easier for us younger woman not be afraid to have a voice and use it. ❤️

Betsy - July 15, 2025 at 06:03 PM

FF

“ From your 17th Street Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Alberta Mae "Bert" McConnell.



From your 17th Street Family - July 15, 2025 at 01:08 PM

DR

“ My Aunt Bert was one of the most patient, kind people. She will be missed by many. A very smart and capable woman I looked up to as a young girl. I remember hosting a retirement party for her at my Moms house in Springville when she retired from the Bloomington SS office. She was so happy to be retired. A dear, loving person I will never forget. Wishing love to Larry and the entire family.

DeAnna Rieber - July 14, 2025 at 10:02 PM

DB

“ Don and Lori Brady purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Alberta Mae "Bert" McConnell.



Don and Lori Brady - July 14, 2025 at 06:21 PM

DB

“ Don and Lori Brady planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alberta Mae "Bert" McConnell.

Don and Lori Brady - July 14, 2025 at 06:21 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Alberta Mae "Bert" McConnell.



July 14, 2025 at 09:17 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Alberta Mae "Bert" McConnell.

July 14, 2025 at 09:17 AM



“ I did not know Bert well, but I do know she was a great mother, who instilled a great work ethic, and wonder and appreciation of the world of nature around her. She also passed on creativity and intelligence which I have seen shining brightly in her daughter Stephanie, who I do know well.
Rest well in peace Bert, we will keep your family in our prayers.
Joe & Caroline Myers

Joe Myers - July 13, 2025 at 08:17 AM



“ We are deeply sorry for your loss. Our condolences to the entire family.

Mike and Bette Lucas - July 12, 2025 at 12:46 PM

JL

“ Jae Winn & John Lopez purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Alberta Mae "Bert" McConnell.



Jae Winn & John Lopez - July 12, 2025 at 12:13 PM

TF

“ The Lanes the Grants, &the whites family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Alberta Mae "Bert" McConnell.



The Lanes the Grants, &the whites family - July 11, 2025 at 06:45 PM

TF

“ The Lanes the Grants, &the whites family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alberta Mae "Bert" McConnell.

The Lanes the Grants, &the whites family - July 11, 2025 at 06:45 PM

CT

“ Loved my aunt Bert! I was always impressed with her love and knowledge of flowers, quilting, and woodworking. She would give you a start of a plant and make sure you not only knew how to take care of it but also knew the specific name of the iris, Lilly, or hosta. Every plant in the garden has a label! Her flower beds were amazing. I credit Bert with getting me excited to quilt. Her quilting abilities were amazing. I will cherish the memories I have of her.

Cynthia Thompson - July 11, 2025 at 06:16 PM