



## Rachel Genevieve Hebner

March 30, 1925 - January 29, 2021

Rachel Genevieve Hebner, 95, of Dimondale, a true original with a smile you'll never forget, passed away on January 29, 2021 in Charlotte, MI. Rachel was raised in Battle Creek by her adopted parents, Fred and Retta (Briggs) Reams. She graduated from Battle Creek Lakeview High School. At the age of 18, she made one of her few trips away from home to travel with a friend to Keesler Air Force Base in Gulfport, Mississippi. While there, her friend's husband arranged a blind date for her, which became the night she met her future husband, Francis Hebner. Within the year, Rachel traveled back to Gulfport to marry Francis. They later returned to Michigan with Francis' transfer to Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda during the Korean War.

After Rachel and Francis moved to the Lansing area, Rachel worked as a school secretary for the Lansing Public School System, her first position being at Lincoln Elementary. She loved her time there, always feeling that the school felt like one big family. After Lincoln School closed she moved to the Reo Elementary School until her retirement in the early 1980's.

Rachel was a strong woman with a great sense of humor. She could tell a story like no other, a talent she enjoyed immensely. She was a "people person" who could strike up a conversation with anyone anywhere. In her recent years she became a voracious reader, sometimes reading two books in a day. Her favorite genre was murder mysteries, which may have helped her develop her story telling abilities. She was most proud of being a mother and grandmother. One of her grandchildren said, "Grandma had a distinctive smile." The residents of Hope Landing, where she spent her last years, agreed and nicknamed her "The Smiling Lady."

Rachel is survived by her daughter, Janice (Larry) McQuay; son, Stuart (Ellie) Hebner; grandchildren Darrin (Susan) Hebner, Angie (Rob) Smith, Edie McQuay, Tammy (Ryan) Halsey, Tina (Tom) Dunsmore, Teresa (Bryce) Madill, Kellye (Joey) Youngs, Justin (Sara) Hodges, Ryan (Jennifer) Hodges; great-grandchildren Alexis, Kyle, Larry, Jack, Allysa, Ashley, Mandy, Jeffrey, Cooper, Sarah, Gracelyn, Cameron, Sebastian, Aliya, Hayden,

and Duke, and 7 great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her birth parents, John and Millie (Hamilton) Reams; her adopted parents Fred and Retta (Briggs) Reams; her brothers, Lee Reams and Bob Reams; and sisters, Ada Whipple, Gertrude McConnell, and Ruth Harden.

The family will be receiving visitors on Monday February 1, 2021 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Pray Funeral Home. The Pray staff will guide guests through visitation. Guests will be required to wear masks and observe social distance guidelines.

The family has suggested that memorial contributions be made to the Parkinson's Foundation.

Family and friends are encouraged to share remembrances and condolences online on Rachel's Tribute Page at <http://www.prayfuneral.com>. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte, MI.

# Cemetery

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## **Battle Creek Memorial Park Association**

2435 West Territorial Road  
Battle Creek, MI, 49015-

# Events

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**FEB** **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

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Pray Funeral Home

401 W. Seminary St., Charlotte, MI, US,  
48813

# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - February 01 at 10:56 AM

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“ Larry And Judy Dodd lit a candle in memory of Rachel Genevieve Hebner



**Larry and Judy Dodd** - February 28 at 10:26 AM

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“ Fresh out of college, first job and first day at that job was a smiling all over, bubbly and enthusiastic lady greeting me with open arms! Yep. That was Rachel. She was so supportive, helpful and knowledgeable about what I would need to know. She took me right in and made me feel welcome and part of the team. The kids loved her and she was so kind to everyone. Jan, I remember you as my cadet teacher and how important you were to my class and me. I don't know how you were assigned to me but I have a feeling your Mom had something to do with it. My sympathy to you and the family. Prayers and love, Merrilee Anderson Brockman

**Merrilee Anderson Brockman** - February 03 at 10:20 AM

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“ She was an amazing lady! She was at Reo elementary when I was a child and my mom worked there.. I still have a Christmas angel ornament she gave me still! My deepest condolences..but wow what an amazing life

**Kristen Richards** - February 02 at 10:26 AM

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“ Rachel was a special friend from the first day I arrived to be a Kindergarten Teacher at Red School! We had a loot of good times along the way. I will not be able to attend the visitation today. At age 92 I do not drive after night sets in, especially out of Lansing. With the isolation caused by Covid we have had to remember friends in so many different ways. Jan, my love to you and all the family.  
Leta Guild

LETA GUILD - February 01 at 04:49 PM

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“ 25 files added to the album LifeTributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - February 01 at 10:55 AM

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“ Jan and Stuart - I'm so sorry to hear about the passing of your mom. Your mom was such a great friend of mom. I have many good memories of visiting your family when I was young your mom was so nice. My prayers and thoughts are with you.  
Mary Helen Wotring

Mary Wotring - February 01 at 07:38 AM

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“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Rachel Genevieve Hebner.



January 30 at 09:04 AM