



Lottie P. Bergquist

June 7, 1934 - July 18, 2025

Lottie P. Bergquist, age 91, passed away peacefully on July 18, 2025, surrounded by the love of her family and caregivers. Beloved wife of the late David Alfred Bergquist, Lottie was a devoted and loving mother to Kathleen Bergquist, Rena (Paul) Rarick, Randall (Nan) Bergquist, and Michele Bergquist. She was also a proud and cherished grandmother to David (Adrienne), Colin, Justin (Jessica), Landon, Derrick, and Cody. Born and raised in Alger, Michigan, Lottie was a lifelong educator, advocate, and nurturer of both people and plants. She attended County Normal and earned her teaching certificate through Central Michigan University. In the early 1950s, she began her teaching career in several one-room schoolhouses across Michigan, including the historic Withey School in West Branch, which still stands today. During the Korean War, Lottie took part in a pen pal program for soldiers. Through this, she began writing to a young serviceman named David Bergquist. Their heartfelt correspondence blossomed into love, and they were married on June 9, 1956. Together, they built a life rooted in family, service, and compassion. In 1963, amidst educational reform and economic transition, Lottie and her family moved from rural Michigan to the growing community of Sterling Heights. There, she continued her teaching career with Utica Community Schools while raising her family. In 1972, Lottie embarked on a new chapter in service to others by working with Residential Systems. For the next 25 years, she became a fierce advocate for the deinstitutionalization and community integration of individuals with intellectual

and developmental disabilities. She picketed at the State Capitol, spoke at town halls, and worked tirelessly to ensure that those without a voice had one in her. Lottie's passions extended far beyond her career. She was an avid gardener, found joy in crocheting nearly every day, and never turned down a trip to the casino. She especially loved spending time at her home in Northern Michigan, where she found peace and inspiration in the natural beauty surrounding her. Lottie lived a life defined by service, strength, and simple pleasures. Her presence was a gift to many, and her impact will be long remembered by those who had the privilege of knowing her. Her spirit, resilience, and unconditional love will live on in the hearts of all who knew her. A visitation will take place at the Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home 8459 Hall Rd. (3Blks E. of Van Dyke) Utica, on Tuesday (July 22nd) from 2pm until the time of service at 6pm. Lottie will be laid to rest beside her beloved husband at Richland Cemetery in Prescott, Michigan on Wednesday (July 23rd) at 2pm. The family would like to extend their deepest gratitude to the dedicated staff at Courtyard of Sterling Heights for the compassionate care they provided Lottie over the last four years. Sincere thanks also to Assured Hospice for their support and kindness during her final journey. In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate donations be made to Assured Hospice.

Cemetery Details

Richland Cemetery

Prescott, MI 48756

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 22. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Utica
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317

Funeral Service

JUL 22. 6:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Utica
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317

Tribute Wall



“ *Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors created a Lottie P. Bergquist Funeral Service in memory of Lottie P. Bergquist*



Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors - July 21, 2025 at 01:00 PM

FG

“ *From Rich, Emmy and Gabrielle purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Lottie P. Bergquist.*



From Rich, Emmy and Gabrielle - July 21, 2025 at 03:48 PM

FG

“ *From Rich, Emmy and Gabrielle planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lottie P. Bergquist.*

From Rich, Emmy and Gabrielle - July 21, 2025 at 03:48 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Lottie P. Bergquist.*



July 21, 2025 at 12:58 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Lottie P. Bergquist.

July 21, 2025 at 12:58 PM



“ My Kindergarten and 1st grade teacher at the Withey Country School 😊 I have many memories of those years and the lasting friendship of our families. Holding you in our thoughts and prayers, both mom and I hold sweet memories.



Deanna Bennett - July 20, 2025 at 03:21 PM