



Ellen Ann Baird

February 28, 1938 - June 8, 2026

In Loving Memory of Ellen Ann Baird (Mendenhall)

Some people leave footprints on your heart. Ellen Ann Baird left something even greater-she built a home there.

Lovingly known as "Granny" to so many who adored her, Ellen passed away peacefully on June 8, 2026, in Anderson, Indiana, at the age of 88.

She was born at home on February 28, 1938, in Zionsville, Indiana to Elizabeth Louise Mendenhall and Foy Harold Mendenhall. From the very beginning, Ellen embodied the strength, resilience, and determination that would define the rest of her life. Ellen was a devoted mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great-grandmother, sister, and friend. She was preceded in death by her parents and her three brothers. She leaves behind her four daughters, Jackie Lynn Ruggles, Judy Lee Darling, Rosa Louise Stamper, and Joyce Ann Evans, along with a legacy that continues through her 10 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and 10 great-great-grandchildren.

A hardworking and fiercely independent woman, Ellen spent her career as a dietary manager in nursing homes, caring for others while providing for her family. As a single mother raising four daughters, she worked tirelessly, teaching her children and grandchildren the value of perseverance, responsibility, and unconditional love. Her family never doubted they were protected by a woman who would do anything for the people she loved.

In her younger years, Ellen had an adventurous spirit. She enjoyed barrel

racing and loved roller skating, embracing life with determination and a sense of fun. Later in life, she found joy in collecting salt and pepper shakers, watching her favorite game shows, and surrounding herself with family whenever she could. Her home was always open. When her daughters were growing up, it became the gathering place where neighborhood kids felt welcome, so much so that many of their friends affectionately called her "Mom". As the next generation arrived, she naturally took on the title that would define her for decades to come-"Granny".

To her family, she was much more than a grandmother. She was a steady presence through every season of life. She created memories on family vacations and camping trips, spent countless hours cooking alongside those she loved, and found joy in the simple moments that became lifelong treasures. She was the kind of grandmother who would rock a sick, crying baby through the night so an exhausted parent could rest, never asking for recognition because caring for her family simply came naturally.

She had a stubborn streak that made everyone smile and a sense of humor that could brighten even the hardest days. Her love wasn't measured in grand gestures but in the countless little things she did every day-showing up, lending a hand, sharing a meal, offering comfort, and making sure the people she loved always knew they had a safe place to land.

The greatest legacy Ellen leaves behind is not found in the things she collected or the jobs she held, but in the generations of family she nurtured and the countless lives she touched. She taught those around her the meaning of hard work, loyalty, resilience, and unwavering devotion to family. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing and loving her. Though our hearts are broken, we find comfort in knowing that the love she gave so freely will continue to live on in every child, grandchild, great-grandchild, and friend whose life she helped shape. Some people leave footprints on your heart. Granny built a home in ours, and because of that, she will never truly be gone.

Tribute Wall

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“ *She’s such an amazing soul and I am so thankful she made her way around this world inspiring everyone around her. I love her lots as being one of her great grand kids I just wished we had more time* ❤️❤️



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