



Margaret E. "Midge" Graeff

August 17, 1937 - April 7, 2026

IN MEMORY OF:

Margaret E. "Midge" Graeff

Serving Location:

CRAIN FUNERAL HOME – MURPHYSBORO

1421 Walnut Street, Murphysboro, Illinois

With deep love and grateful hearts, we celebrate the life of Margaret E. "Midge" Graeff, age 88, of Rotonda West, Florida, formerly of Murphysboro, Illinois, who passed away peacefully on Tuesday, April 7, 2026.

Born on August 17, 1937, in Tamaroa, Illinois, Midge was the cherished daughter of Lester and Frieda (Smith) Heape. On June 12, 1955, she married the love of her life, Robert E. Graeff. Together, they built a marriage that spanned more than 60 years—a true partnership grounded in devotion, resilience, and unwavering love—until his passing in 2015.

Midge lived her life as a steady and comforting presence to all who knew her. She was the kind of woman who showed up—quietly, faithfully, and with a heart full of grace. Whether as a devoted wife, a fiercely loving mother, a

proud grandmother, or a joyful great-grandmother, she gave her love freely and without condition. Her family was her greatest pride, and she nurtured it with strength, kindness, and a deep sense of care that will echo through generations.

We are deeply grateful for every memory we share—every story, every laugh, and every quiet moment together. Her life has been a beautiful example of resilience, grace, and unwavering devotion to family. She loved fiercely, and her devotion, wisdom, and gentle strength have shaped our family in ways we will carry with us every day.

She was a member of the United Methodist Church of Murphysboro, where her faith helped guide her life and her compassion for others.

Those left to cherish her memory include her loving children, Terri (Scott) Hesse, Robert (Jennifer) Graeff, and her daughter by choice, Tammy Salzman; her beloved grandchildren, Ryan (Kalehli) Hesse, Sarah Hesse, Patrick (Casey) Hesse, Connor Graeff and his fiancée Skylar Miller, and Brandon (Haley) Graeff; and her treasured great-grandchildren, Theo, Henry, Carter, and Alayna. She is also survived by her sister-in-law, Ruth Heape.

Midge was preceded in death by her parents; her beloved husband, Robert; her brothers, Norman Heape and Neal Heape; and her sister, Jean Benson Daugherty.

To know Midge was to know warmth, steadiness, and unconditional love. She was the quiet backbone of her family—the one who held everything together, often without recognition, but always with intention. Her legacy is not only in the years she lived but in the lives she shaped, the traditions she carried forward, and the love she leaves behind.

A Graveside Service with inurnment will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2026 at 12:00 PM with Joe Youngberg officiating at Murdale Gardens of Memory.

Visitation will be held prior the graveside service from 1030 AM until 1130 AM at Crain Pleasant Grove – Murdale Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and/or the United Methodist Church of Murphysboro.

Crain Funeral Home in Murphysboro is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Murdale Gardens of Memory

137 Murdale Gardens Rd
Murphysboro, IL 62966
(618) 687-1145
crain@crainsonline.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 6. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (cst)

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home - Old 13
31 Memorial Dr.
Murphysboro, IL 62966
(618) 687-2500
crain@crainsonline.com

Graveside Service

JUN 6. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (cst)

Murdale Gardens of Memory
137 Murdale Gardens Rd
Murphysboro, IL 62966
(618) 687-1145
crain@crainsonline.com

Tribute Wall

MT

“ I thought of Midge as a second mom growing up in Murphysboro. She was always so welcoming when I'd come to spend time with Terri. She'd always laugh when Pepper, the cat would hiss and run from me, and then pretend to scold the cat saying, "Pepper, you ought to know Marcie by now," to which Bob would reply, "That's why Pepper runs." The Graeff house was the only place you could get mayo and grilled cheese sandwiches. Midge and Bob just seemed so satisfyingly normal to me. . . like a couple out of a 1950s movie. She was always stylish and I never saw her with a hair out of place. Her giggle/laugh was contagious and genuine which reflected her personality. She was always kind, always fun, always energetic. I admired her strong Faith and her unconditional love for her family. For all Midge's family and friends: I grieve alongside you, and have no doubt that she is watching out for all of us from her spot in Heaven.

Marcie Taylor - June 06 at 12:14 AM

LF

“ Love, The Hesse Family purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Margaret E. "Midge" Graeff.



Love, The Hesse Family - June 02 at 01:08 PM

BB

“ Midge was a beautiful lady. I met her through a friend and I had the pleasure of driving her to a few of her pain appointments. She would treat me to lunch and some upbuilding conversations. She talked so much about how she loved her family and was proud of each one. We talked about the twins as I have a set of twin boys too. I will miss this wonderful lady and her smile. I am so glad to have had time with her. Bev Bengtson

Bev Bengtson - May 20 at 05:10 PM

MR

“ I remember family visits with Bobby and Midge and their two dogs when I was just a small child. Her calming face is what I remember most and her kind smiles as I grew up in Murphysboro. Midge always had time for a family update chat between our two families when meeting her later in my life. She kept me abreast of Bobby's health and the lives of her children as I did with mine. Although Bobby was part of my family, it was Midge who was instrumental in keeping family together for me after the passing of my mother. I'm so sorry for your loss of this beautiful lady, but I feel so enriched to have known her.

Marilyn (Vaughn) Eaton Rainey

Marilyn Rainey - April 16 at 10:41 AM

ER

“ So sorry to see of Midge's passing, condolences to her kids and grandkids. When I was a nail tech, she was one of my favorite clients and I enjoyed our conversations.

Erin Riggins - April 15 at 08:07 PM