



Theresa Merlene Bennett

February 11, 1931 - December 15, 2018

Theresa Merlene Bennett, age 87 of Murphysboro and formerly of Christopher, passed away, Saturday, December 15, 2018.

She was born in Benton on February 11, 1931 to Dominick and Theresa (Kern) Riva.

Theresa married Sherman E. Bennett on June 3, 1953. They shared 30 years of marriage. He preceded her on November 2, 1983.

She lived all over the world and was a teacher for over 40 years. Teaching in Royalton; Kinmundy; Centralia, Inter American University in Puerto Rico; Kadena Air Force Base, Okinawa, Japan and Hanau, Germany. She retired from the Department of Defense Schools in Hanau, Germany. She impacted the lives of hundreds of kids and loved teaching.

She was an avid Cardinals baseball fan. After retirement she filled her time in the flea market business where she met many new friends. She loved and adored her special pet, Chiquita.

Theresa is survived by a daughter, Theresa Sherlene (Gregory) Newell of Lower Lake, CA; a son, Steve (Angelia) Bennett of Christopher; grandchildren, Stephanie Newell of Lower Lake, CA; Adam (Naarah) Newell

of Nice, CA; Keith (Ashley) Bennett and Katherine Bennett, both of Christopher; great-grandsons, Knox Robbins and Dominick and Jasper Bennett; a cousin, Analea Miriani of Murphysboro; other relatives and a host of friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband.

Graveside Services for Theresa Merlene Bennett will be Thursday, December 20, 2018 at 2:30 pm in St. Andrews Catholic Cemetery in Christopher with Father Robert Falannery officiating. Eulogy will be presented by Paula Kovacs. Inurnment will follow.

Memorial can be made to the Salvation Army and/or St. Jude's Children Research Hospital and will be accepted at the graveside.

The Family of Theresa Merlene Bennett would like to thank Terra Mitchell and Tim Bradshaw who were special friends and caretakers for the exceptional care that they provided.

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ *Theresa Merlene Bennett*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *Mrs. Bennett was a Social Studies Teacher at Hanau Middle School in Hanau, Germany and I was the School Secretary. Mrs. Bennett was very loved by not only her students but by her colleagues, the support staff and parents as well. She was always there for the kids. She will be sorely missed. She and I were very close friends until her retirement. I will miss her.*

Ramona Wunsch - December 23, 2018 at 01:16 PM



She was an extraordinary person. My daughters loved her. I have her pumpkin soup recipe to this Day. RIP I just was made aware of her passing today. 2026 🙁 I hope Ramona you are doing well!
Sabine Burton

SABINE ERNA BURTON - February 21 at 02:52 PM



“ *My son, Eric, had your mother in Hanau, Germany many, many years ago. He will be 45 years old soon! She was patient with him and he loved her. Me, too. I worked as a Sub at Sportfield Elementary and subbed for her many times. We have been in contact every Christmas since. I will miss her yearly cards. RIP my friend, enjoy Heaven!*

Norma Waters - December 22, 2018 at 04:51 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Theresa Merlene Bennett.*



December 18, 2018 at 05:04 AM



“ *I LOVE MERLENE. I WILL MISS HER SO VERY MUCH. WE MET IN GERMANY. SHE TAUGHT BOTH OF MY CHILDREN. I WOULD MAKE HOME MADE SOUP AND BREAD AND SHE WOULD COME EAT WITH US. I ALSO WORKED FOR HER HUSBAND AT THE SCHOOL. PLEASE ACCEPT OUR CONDOLENCES. SHE WAS A GREAT, BEAUTIFUL LADY.*



BILLIE MURPHY - December 17, 2018 at 08:50 PM



“ *Sherleen and Steve, you know how much you as kids were woven into our lives, both in Okinawa and Germany. We loved your Mom (and Dad) and how much they became our kids grandparents! You know we love you and how much you all mean to us! Merlene had the best laugh, a fun sense of humor! She was so smart in her teaching both in school and in practical matters! She gave life to everything she touched and she influenced so many people in the world! What a wonderful woman!*

jean rick and family - December 17, 2018 at 03:56 PM

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“ *What can I say, you were a part of our family, and we will miss your quick wit and the memories we made. We always enjoyed Merlene's stories and her many adventures. Prayers to Steve and Sherlene and your families.*
Barb and Butch Mainer and Buddy



Barbara Mainer - December 16, 2018 at 09:55 PM