



## Mary Irene Rager

August 24, 1919 - December 25, 2016

Mary Irene Rager, 97, formerly of rural Akron, Indiana passed Dec. 25, 2016 at Peabody Retirement Community of North Manchester, Ind. where she has resided for the past 6 years.

She was born on Aug. 24, 1919 in her Grandmother Arter's house near Akron, Ind. to Dewey and Gladys (Arter) Merley.

As a young girl she learned a strong work ethic by delivering newspapers in Akron and later helping her mother cook for lumberjacks in Michigan.

Attending Akron Schools for 12 years, she graduated 3rd in her class. She married her high school sweetheart, Verl Wesley Rager at the home of Rev. Daniel Slaybaugh on Dec. 24, 1937. He preceded her in death on Sept. 27, 2006.

As a stay at home mom, she kept herself busy reading, sewing, and knitting sweaters for family members. She also belonged to the Stringtown Club, Bunco Club, Ruth Circle, taught Sunday school, and was a member of Bethlehem Baptist Church.

When her 4 children were in school she worked at A&P, sewed casket linings, and worked at Heckman Bindery in North Manchester from which she retired.

She also found time to be a regular blood donor, work the census, worked election days, was a Girl Scout leader, a Boy Scout Den Mother, and an avid Purdue Basketball fan.

Survivors and place of residence:

Daughter – Laura Reese – Akron, Ind.

Sons – Eldon and wife Jenean Rager – N. Manchester, Ind.

Philip and wife Sue Rager – Portland, Ind.

Grandchildren - David Rice – Hartford City, Melissa (Aaron) Walt – N.

Manchester, Kelli (Chris) Hooks – Rochester, Christopher (Heather) Rager –

New Haven, Stephanie (Keith) Winchester – Fairmount, Michael (Mary) Rager –

– Fishers, Steven (Rachelle) Reese – Rochester, Ryan (Lindsey) Reese –

Rochester, Shari (Craig) Durkes – Akron, and Scott Reese – Akron

17 Great Grandchildren and 4 step great grandchildren

Sister-in-law – Catherine Merley

Several Nieces and Nephews

Preceded in Death By:

Parents, Husband, Daughter – Verla Jean Rice, Son-in-laws – Darrell Rice

and Calvin Reese, Granddaughter – Bonnie Jean Rice, and a Brother –

William Merley

Time and Date of Services: 11:00 am, Thursday, Dec. 29, 2016

Place of Services: Hartzler Funeral Home 305 West Rochester Street Akron, Ind.

Minister: Rev. Phil Pratt and Rev. Junior Bose

Place of Burial: Akron Cemetery, Akron, Indiana

Visitation Hours: 4 pm to 8 pm, Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2016 at Hartzler Funeral Home, Akron, Ind.

Memorial Contributions to: Kindred Hospice or the Bethlehem Baptist Church



# Cemetery Details

## Akron Cemetery

S 1075 E  
Akron, IN 46910

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**DEC 28.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Hartzler Funeral Home  
305 West Rochester Street  
P.O. Box 856  
Akron, IN 46910  
(574) 893-4423  
info@hartzlerfuneralservices.com  
<https://www.hartzlerfuneralservices.com>

## Funeral Service

**DEC 29.** 11:00 AM (ET)

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# Tribute Wall



“ Hartzler Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Irene Rager



Hartzler Funeral Services - December 26, 2016 at 10:58 AM

DH

“ Phil and Sue - Thoughts and prayers are with you and your family from Dan and Sharon Hoffman.

Dan and Sharon Hoffman - December 29, 2016 at 06:37 AM

CS

“ So sorry for your loss. I remember her and Girl Scouts. She was a special lady.

Colleen (Whittenberger) Shenk  
LaOtto, IN

Colleen Shenk - December 28, 2016 at 06:32 PM

KH

“ Karna Earl, Jacqie Hoffman, and Ronnie Hoffman purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Mary Irene Rager.



Karna Earl, Jacqie Hoffman, and Ronnie Hoffman - December 27, 2016 at 12:10 PM

JC

“ Jim And Virginia Conliff lit a candle in memory of Mary Irene Rager



Jim and Virginia Conliff - December 27, 2016 at 08:37 AM

Delon  
Furnivall

“ Going to the Flagpole for ice cream, Mary, Verl, Calvin, Laura and kids, Terri and I and laughing all the way.

Delon Furnivall - December 26, 2016 at 10:07 PM

JM

“ Jeannie Eaton Matheny sent a virtual gift in memory of Mary Irene Rager



Jeannie Eaton Matheny - December 26, 2016 at 07:21 PM

SR

“ Sharon/Ron Rogers lit a candle in memory of Mary Irene Rager



Sharon/Ron Rogers - December 26, 2016 at 06:16 PM



“ 57 files added to the album LifeTributes



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**Hartzler Funeral Services** - December 26, 2016 at 10:37 AM