



Rozella M. VanCleave

June 17, 1935 - January 21, 2026

Rozella M. VanCleave, 90, of Milford and formerly of rural Silver Lake, Indiana passed on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at her residence.

Rozella was born on June 17, 1935, in Silver Lake, Indiana, to the late Wilfred J. and Alice (Murphy) Gagnon. She graduated from Burket High School in 1953. On October 23 of that same year, she married Max J. VanCleave at the Silver Creek Church of God. They shared a devoted life together until his passing on July 17, 2005.

Faith was the foundation of Rozella's life. A lifelong member of the Silver Creek Church of God, she and Max served together in Jail Ministries, sharing their love for God with those in need. In later years, she worshiped at Abundant Life Assembly of God in Warsaw. She was also a dedicated member of the Gideon Auxiliary International.

Rozella worked side by side with her husband on the family farm and spent many years driving a school bus for the Tippecanoe Valley School Corporation. She later retired from Helser Metal Finishing in Warsaw. Her heart for service extended into her volunteer work at Greencroft, where she enjoyed giving her time to others.

Above all, Rozella cherished her family. She loved being outdoors, especially

when she could spend time mowing. She found joy in reading, playing board games, and traveling—particularly through her involvement with the Gideons and REMC.

She is survived by her daughters Deanna and husband Dwayne Robinson of Windsor, South Carolina, Charlene and husband Terry Chambers of Logansport, Jo Ellen Mangus of Pierceton, and Sheena and husband Taylor Whitaker of Milford; sons Rick and wife Lynnette VanCleave of Akron, Michael and wife Cheryl VanCleave of Nashville, Ind., Scott and wife Jen VanCleave of Silver Lake; 16 Grandchildren; 23 Great Grandchildren; and a Great Great Grandson; sisters Joyce and husband Robert Shafer of Warsaw, Carolyn Miller of Akron, and Pat and husband Rodney Weaver of Goshen; and brother William and wife Sue Ellen Gagnon of Silver Lake.

Rozella was preceded in death by her parents, husband, granddaughters Andrea VanCleave and Samantha Hardin, step father Cyrus Tullis, and brother-in-law Gene Miller.

The funeral service will take place at 1:00 pm, Thursday, January 29, 2026 at the Silver Creek Church of God 6504 W 1300 S, Silver Lake, Indiana with Pastors Taylor Whitaker, Mike VanCleave, and Rick VanCleave.

The interment will take place following the service in the Silver Creek Cemetery, Silver Lake, Indiana.

Visitation hours will be held from 11 am to 1 pm, Thursday, January 29, 2026 at Silver Creek Church of God.

Memorial contributions can be made in her memory to Gideons International P.O. Box 308 Akron, IN 46910.

Cemetery Details

Silver Creek Cemetery

6504 West 1300 South
Silver Lake, IN 46982

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 29. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Silver Creek Church Of God
6504 West 1300 South
Silver Lake, IN 46982

Funeral Service

JAN 29. 1:00 PM (ET)

Silver Creek Church Of God
6504 West 1300 South
Silver Lake, IN 46982

Tribute Wall



“ Hartzler Funeral Services created a Webcast in memory of Rozella M. VanCleave



Hartzler Funeral Services - January 30 at 12:14 PM



“ Hartzler Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Rozella M. VanCleave



Hartzler Funeral Services - January 27 at 10:41 AM



“ Gary Ellenwood planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rozella M. VanCleave.

Gary Ellenwood - January 29 at 12:25 PM

GE

“ Gary Ellenwood purchased the Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum for the family of Rozella M. VanCleave.



Gary Ellenwood - January 29 at 12:25 PM

PG

“ We are so sorry to not be in Indiana to attend today;s service for dear Rozella , but have left a memory of what she meant to me. Sincerely , Patricia (Silveus) Goshert.



Patricia Goshert - January 29 at 10:54 AM

PG

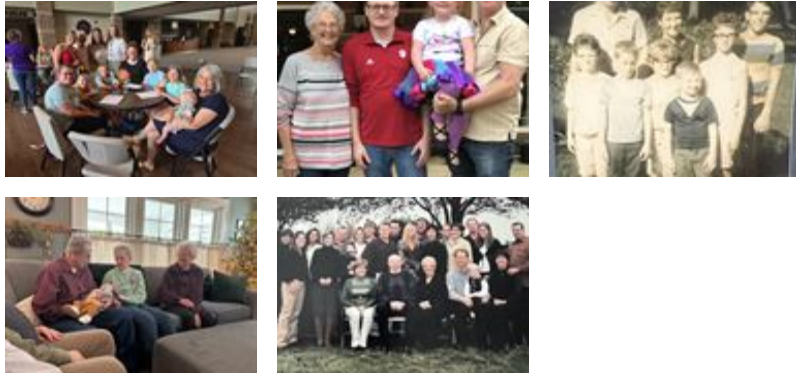
“ Dear family of Rozella; I always looked up to Rozella as a younger student at Burket, the later in life as an adult admired the way she & Max shared their lives with so many. Later still when my husband & I joined the Warsaw-Winona Gideons. Rozella lived her faith and I will always feel blessed to have known her & learned much from her & her example. Our prayers continue to go with you all in your loss, but also rejoice knowing she is with Jesus. Sincerely, Patricia (Silveus) & Richard Goshert



Patricia Goshert - January 29 at 10:30 AM



“ 9 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Hartzler Funeral Services - January 29 at 07:44 AM



“ *The Judy Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Rozella M. VanCleave.*



The Judy Family - January 28 at 06:42 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Rozella M. VanCleave.*



January 28 at 01:24 PM

LF

“ Love Your Abundant Life Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rozella M. VanCleave.

Love Your Abundant Life Family - January 28 at 01:24 PM

GD

“ To All The Van Cleave Children And Extended Family, My heart-felt sympathy, for your loss. Your mother's life was a life well lived. She exuded joy, energy, and happiness wherever she went. So many fond memories. I remember your parents wedding when I was about five. It was like a magical fairy tale to me, and your mother was so beautiful. Don't remember your dad at the event, but I'm sure he was there. 😊 Then the family started, and it grew and grew as did the farming. Thru it all your mother's love, energy and joy of life was a constant. We were all blessed to have her in our lives. My sincere sympathy, and I wish all of you the best as you move forward as the next Van Cleave generation. Love, Gale Judy DeTurck.

Gale Judy DeTurck - January 28 at 01:00 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Rozella M. VanCleave.



January 28 at 11:21 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rozella M. VanCleave.*



January 27 at 02:39 PM



“ *She was a hero among heroes with her spontaneous adoption of four little kids who had no future but foster homes. She gathered those chicks under her wings and gave them a life of farm, family, and Jesus! She was a legend in my opinion!*
Greg Getz

Greg Getz - January 27 at 11:29 AM



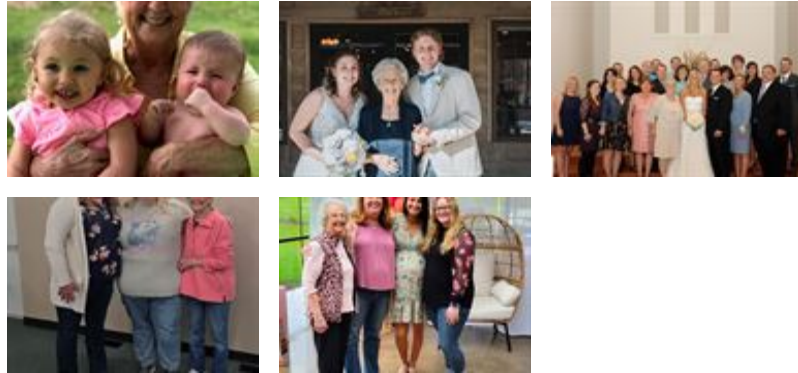
“ *-The Great Lakes Christian Homes Team purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Rozella M. VanCleave.*



-The Great Lakes Christian Homes Team - January 27 at 10:40 AM



“ 101 files added to the album LifeTributes



Hartzler Funeral Services - January 27 at 10:38 AM



“ With Love, Greencroft Communities Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Rozella M. VanCleave.



With Love, Greencroft Communities Family - January 26 at 09:48 PM



“ With Love, Greencroft Communities Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rozella M. VanCleave.

With Love, Greencroft Communities Family - January 26 at 09:48 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rozella M. VanCleave.*



January 26 at 07:25 PM



“ *Holloway/Gagnon have many family memories at the farm where Byron and I are now neighbors and enjoying the view. The two Rozellas are now chatting about their children and their families. Your family is fondly remembered in our thoughts and prayers. Tana Tinkey; Byron, Chris and Jonathan Tinkey*

Tana Tinkey - January 26 at 10:56 AM



“ *Markyn K French purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Rozella M. VanCleave.*



Markyn K French - January 24 at 10:12 AM



“ *Sarah and Ralph Trafan and Leading Edge Countertops purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Rozella M. VanCleave.*



Sarah and Ralph Trafan and Leading Edge Countertops -
January 23 at 07:40 PM

JE

“ Jeff and Steph Ellenwood planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rozella M. VanCleave.

Jeff and Steph Ellenwood - January 23 at 03:57 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rozella M. VanCleave.



January 23 at 03:57 PM