



## Bertha Gudlaug Bracey

February 24, 1945 - September 19, 2025

Bertha Gudlaug Bracey, age 80, of Manchester, Michigan, passed away peacefully on Friday, September 19, 2025 with her family by her side. Bertha was born on February 24, 1945 in Reykjavik, Iceland. She is preceded in death by mother Bjorj Sveinsdottir, father Robert Lichtenberger, stepfather George Shepardson, brother George Shepardson, and granddaughter Chelsey Northrup. Bertha is survived by her husband William “Bill” Bracey, three children; son Mark Bracey of Manchester, Daughter Cheryl Northrup of Saline, and son Jeffrey Bracey of Saline. Other survivors include her sister Shirley Shepardson Cutchin of Winchester, Virginia, granddaughter and Husband Alexis Hardenbrook and Garrett Hardenbrook of Ann Arbor, great-grandson Carter Hardenbrook of Ann Arbor, and great-granddaughter Elliot Hardenbrook of Ann Arbor.

Bertha was raised in Keflavik, Iceland. At age 18, Bertha met her future husband of 61 years William Bracey who was stationed in Keflavik. They were married on May 24, 1964 and relocated back to the United States to begin their family. Bertha worked many different jobs in her early years but found her biggest calling as a devoted stay at home mother. Aside from her children and grandchildren, Bertha was most proud of her Icelandic heritage and carried on many Icelandic traditions such as 2 weeks of Christmas songs, games, and celebrations such as “the pudding game.” Bertha also knit incredible Icelandic wool sweaters and shipped in fresh Icelandic lobster tails and black licorice.

For much of her life, Bertha enjoyed golfing, bowling, playing cards, boat rides, cruises, traveling, spending time with family and friends, bingo, and trips to the casino with Bill to stay in the so-called “free” rooms.

Family will receive friends on Tuesday, September 30, 2025 from 4:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. at Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home in Saline. A Memorial Service will take place at 7:00 P.M. Pastor Drex Morton will officiate the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Bertha’s name may be made to Hospice of Lenawee or the American Diabetes Association and envelopes will be available at the funeral home. To sign Bertha’s guestbook, to leave a memory, and for more information or directions, please visit [www.rbfhsaline.com](http://www.rbfhsaline.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Oakwood Cemetery

227 West Michigan Ave  
Saline, MI 48176

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 30. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
301 E Michigan Ave  
Saline, MI 48176  
(734) 429-9760  
rbfhsaline@hotmail.com  
<https://www.rbfhsaline.com>

## Memorial Service

SEP 30. 7:00 PM (ET)

Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
301 E Michigan Ave  
Saline, MI 48176  
(734) 429-9760  
rbfhsaline@hotmail.com  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Joey Hitchcock Gilligan lit a candle in memory of Bertha Gudlaug Bracey* ”



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**Joey Hitchcock Gilligan** - October 23, 2025 at 08:04 AM

GE

“ Even though I only spent brief moments in time she made each of those moments special. One of her many gifts was the gift of empathy. Bertha would often call me just to see how I was doing. More importantly she was a sounding board for me.

The best part of being with Aunt Bertha is that you knew each day was going to have new and fun experience. Whether it was playing Yahtzee or going to the movies. But my favorite was the wide variety of culinary experiences she offered. You know, Dairy Queen, Mcdonalds, Burger King and the like.

I loved every minute of it. Bertha made her home a refuge and a place of safety not just for me but my siblings as well. I recall the last time I was visiting Michigan she wanted to go to the casinos in Canada. After gambling for a while she looks up at me with a slight look of concern she said, “I hope Bill hasn’t looked at the bank statement because he’s going to kill me.” So, what was her solution, “I will win it all back.” And that's what she did I was awestruck.

To sum up all my experiences with my Aunt Bertha I would say at her core she was a “mom”. The memories of her will always have a special place in my heart.

Love,  
George & Maribel Jakobsson

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George - September 29, 2025 at 02:51 PM

WK

“ A sweet fun lady with a wonderful laugh! I still remember sharing dried fish from Iceland around the holidays. We were the only two who could eat it. Sorry we moved away and lost so many years enjoying her company.

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Walter Keck - September 23, 2025 at 03:41 PM

LH

“ I'm so sorry to hear about this sad news. Bertha and I knew each other for many years. We bowled a lot together. She was a very dear friend of mine even though I hadn't seen her recently and I'll miss her dearly. Bertha and I are the same age and I know her family will miss her terribly.

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**Lorraine Hossele** - September 23, 2025 at 01:13 PM

SG

“ Bertha & I met the first time when she & Bill lived in a small apt, think it was before Mark was even born, I was very young, had to be 60 yrs ago! Mostly over the years though we visited them on Nichols St for Christmas and when they hosted a large family reunion at their lake cottage. We always felt welcome and Bertha worked hard to make it so, she was upbeat and inquisitive about what we were doing. We will all miss her presence and share the family's sorrow.

- Steve Gutermuth

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**Steve Gutermuth** - September 22, 2025 at 08:29 PM