



Dorothy M. Gesswein

July 30, 1933 - April 9, 2025

Rockford- Dotty Gesswein, age 91, passed away peacefully at St. Anne's Place on April 9, 2025, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Born on July 30, 1933, in Racine, Wisconsin, to Paul and Angeline "Cuccia" Payette, Dotty moved with her family to Rockford in 1945. She attended Rockford East High School, where she formed lifelong friendships and developed a passion for creativity.

Dotty was the proud owner and operator of Five Point Floral in Rockford for over 30 years. Her talent and dedication as a florist were well-known, and she brought joy to many through her beautiful arrangements and handmade creations. Dotty's creativity and love for crafting were evident in everything she did, and she will be remembered for her artistic spirit and kind heart.

Dotty loved to crochet and was an active member of the crochet and knitting club at St. Rita's Church. She also volunteered extensively in the community and for her church, embodying the spirit of a true servant of the Lord.

Throughout her life, Dotty was surrounded by love from her family and friends. She knew how to live a fun-filled life and was one of a kind. Dotty always had a laugh and a smile, bringing joy to everyone around her.

Dotty is survived by her two children, Janice (Jason) Martin and Judith

(Thomas) Sahlstrom; four grandchildren, Christine Zaccaria, Andrea (Michael) Hibbard, Brian (Kelly) Hicks, and Charles (Ritika) Stein; nine great-grandchildren, Abby Zaccaria, Austin Hicks, Noah Hibbard, Alyssa Hicks, Aiden Hibbard, Dylan Gaffney, Maddux Hibbard, Charlie Stein, Raiyan Stein, and; one great-great-grandchild, Paisley Hibbard; her sister, Lynn Radville; and many other loving family members. Her loving family will cherish her memory and celebrate her life. Her legacy of creativity, compassion, and service will continue to inspire those who knew her.

Dotty is preceded in death by her parents; and stepmother, Faye Payette.

A memorial service will be held at St. Rita's Catholic Church, 6254 Valley Knoll Drive in Rockford. Tuesday April 22nd. Visitation at 10 am, Mass at 11 am. Family and friends are invited to gather in fellowship and honor Dotty's life. Flowers can be sent Tuesday morning 8:30 am - 9:30 am.

Flowers should be sent to the church Tuesday morning, April 22, 2025, by 8:30-9:30 AM.

Rosman Funeral Home is assisting the family 608-364-4477.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **22**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Rita's Catholic Church
6254 Valley Knoll Dr.
Rockford, IL

Memorial Service

APR **22**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Rita's Catholic Church
6254 Valley Knoll Dr.
Rockford, IL

Tribute Wall

TR

“ Troy Radville planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dorothy M. Gesswein.

Troy Radville - April 20, 2025 at 05:48 PM

DS

“ Doreen S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dorothy M. Gesswein.

Doreen S. - April 16, 2025 at 12:02 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dorothy M. Gesswein.



April 14, 2025 at 10:40 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dorothy M. Gesswein.

April 14, 2025 at 10:40 PM



“ *Dotty was a wonderful lady. I had the pleasure of of working with her for 29 years. She was like a second mother to me. I will love and miss her and her wonderful personality. May you rest in peace mama.* ”

Janet (Bud) Champlin - April 11, 2025 at 07:53 PM



“ *Kathy Hardin lit a candle in memory of Dorothy M. Gesswein* ”



Kathy Hardin - April 11, 2025 at 11:51 AM