

Tuesday, January 11, 2005

STARLA M. 'STAR' GAITHER

March 19, 1946 - Jan. 8, 2005

Lifetime Kokomo resident Starla Gaither, 58, died at her home Saturday, Jan. 8, 2005. She was born March 19, 1946, in Kokomo, a daughter of Wilbur and Emily (Dummitt) Rust. She married William Gaither June 25, 1967, and he survives.

Star was a 1964 honors graduate of Kokomo High School where she was very active in extra-curricular activities. She then attended Indiana University Kokomo for three years, working towards a degree in accounting. She worked for eight years at Davis Cleaners, Delco, the Credit Bureau and Peerless Plumbing to name a few. Her most important job was that of wife and mother.

She was devoted to her family, especially her grandchildren and her pets. She was an avid body builder who won many awards and competitions and at one time was awarded fifth place at the Ms. Indiana Competition. She was a gifted writer and had a story published in Womens Day Magazine. She was a Brownie leader when her daughters were younger and a volunteer reader at the local elementary schools for the special needs students.

She was very strong in her faith and attended Beulah Land Church. She was an accomplished horseback rider and at one time rode professionally for the Justaks.

Star is survived by her husband of 37 years, William "Bill" Gaither, Kokomo; three daughters, Emily Kay and husband Jeff Shrock, Kathy Lynn Tragesser, and Patricia Jane and husband Robert Thiemrodt, all of Kokomo; her father, Wilbur Rust, Winona Lake; a sister, Melissa and husband James Wilson, Kokomo; a brother, Trenton Rust, Kokomo; a half-sister, Penny Rust, Winona Lake; one sister-in-law, Jane and husband Richard Read, Kokomo; her mother-in-law, Kay Gaither, Kokomo; four grandchildren, Samantha Shrock, Cory Shrock, Ashley Tragesser and Ryan Tragesser, all of Kokomo; and several nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her mother, Emily Rust.

Funeral services are scheduled for 11 a.m. Thursday in Sunset Memory Garden Funeral Home, 2097 W. Alto Road, with the Rev. Dan Coomer officiating. Entombment will follow in Sunset Memory Garden Cemetery and Mausoleum. Friends may call from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. If you would like to offer your condolences online, please do so at www.MeM.com.

Source: Kokomo Tribune

Publication Date: 1/11/2005