



## Janis M. Gillis

August 12, 1936 - December 6, 2023

Janis M. Gillis, age 87 of Lerna, IL passed away at 2:02 PM, Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at Heartland Senior Living in Neoga, IL.

A funeral service in her honor will be held at noon, Monday, December 11, 2023, at Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, located at 1200 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938. A committal service will immediately follow in Janesville Cemetery, Janesville, IL. The visitation will be held the same day from 10:00 AM until the time of service at the funeral home.

Janis was born on August 12, 1936, in Glen Dean, KY to the late Steve and Annie (Lucas) Critchelow. She married Loren Ray Gillis on April 27, 1957, at the Immaculate Conception Church in Mattoon, IL; he survives. She is survived by their three children: Karen A. Skidis and husband Richard of Sullivan, IL; Kevin R. Gillis and wife Janice of Jewett, IL, Julie L. Ames and husband Gary of Lerna, IL; nine grandchildren: Chad A. Gillis and wife Christy of Lerna, IL, Chris R. Gillis and wife Kelly of Lovington, IL, Sean S. Gillis (Ary) of Shreveport, LA, Aaron M. Skidis and wife Laura of St. Louis, MO, Rich D. Skidis of Sterling, VA, Heather R. Skidis of Bonaire, GA, Megan L. Ames (John Fear) of Effingham, IL, Nathan A. Ames of Mattoon, IL, Cory J. Ames and wife Catherine of Mayfield, KY; fifteen great-grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren and one on the way; and two dear friends, Edna Probst and Sharon Turner. She was preceded in death by one granddaughter, Heidi Skidis Hudson; and one brother, William A. Critchelow.

Janis was a member of the Immaculate Conception Church in Mattoon, IL.

She was employed as the secretary for the Foreign Language Department at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, IL, later retiring in 2000 after twenty years of dedicated service. She was a former member of the Mattoon Moose Lodge 803 and Mattoon Eagles Club.

Janis loved nothing more than to spend time with dear friends and family. She had a knack for collecting owl figurines and a night filled with dancing, a little gambling, or playing cards brought great joy to her life. Her heart was full when she was surrounded by her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Her loving family was the light of her life.

Janis touched the hearts of many. She will be fondly remembered as a devoted wife, loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and true friend. Please visit [www.mitchell-jerdan.com](http://www.mitchell-jerdan.com) or [www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome](https://www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome) to light a virtual candle in her honor or share a memory with the family.

# Cemetery Details

## Janesville Cemetery

Janesville, IL 62435

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 11. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home Ltd.  
1200 Wabash Ave  
Mattoon, IL 61938  
(217) 234-8828  
contact@mitchelljerdan.com  
<https://www.mitchell-jerdan.com/>

## Service

DEC 11. 12:00 PM (CT)

Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home Ltd.  
1200 Wabash Ave  
Mattoon, IL 61938  
(217) 234-8828  
contact@mitchelljerdan.com  
<https://www.mitchell-jerdan.com/>

# Tribute Wall

DN

“ We always enjoyed visiting with Janis and Loren. Prayers and sympathies go out to your families.



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**Diana, Ken & Jacqueline Niebrugge** - December 11, 2023 at 06:45 PM

DN

*Jackie*

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**Diana, Ken & Jacqueline Niebrugge** - December 11, 2023 at 06:48 PM

LT

“ Linda Tucker lit a candle in memory of Janis M. Gillis



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**Linda Tucker** - December 10, 2023 at 05:42 PM

RL

“ Janice married my brother Loren when I was just 2 years old. I remember, my sister, Sara, and I getting to stay a week with her and Loren every summer. She always treated us as one of her own. I can remember her giving me a few coins to spend on some penny candy at the general store in Lerna. One year she had to take me to the doctor for an ear infection. Another year to the dentist to have a baby tooth pulled. We had so much fun during those summer days, despite my medical woes.

She was funny and sassy, and you never had to wonder how she felt about anything. She would let you know. I loved her dearly for always being there to take care of my brother. They were life partners.

Janice and I used to send each other birthday cards reading “To my Favorite Sister-in-Law”, and then I just started sending cards to my “Sister”, because that’s what she was to me. I’m going to miss you Sis.

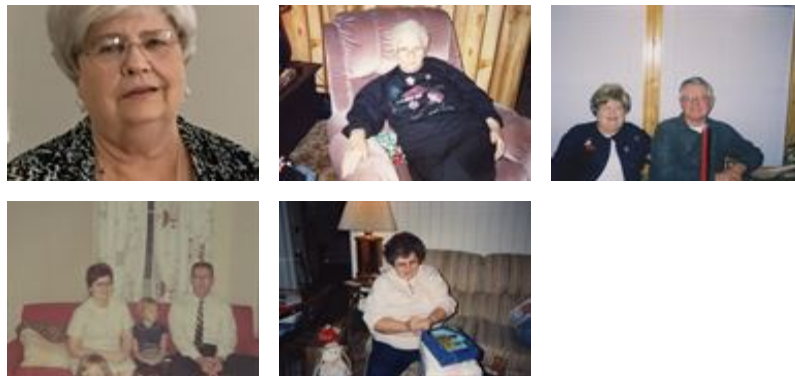
Rebecca Gillis Little

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Rebecca Gillis Little - December 09, 2023 at 02:23 PM



“ 49 files added to the album Life Tributes



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Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home - December 08, 2023 at 12:46 PM

MV

“ *Megan Verdeyen lit a candle in memory of Janis M. Gillis*



Megan Verdeyen - December 08, 2023 at 12:01 PM

MV

“ *Julie, I am very sorry for your loss. Thinking of you and your family at this time.*  
-Megan Verdeyen

Megan Verdeyen - December 08, 2023 at 12:00 PM

WB

“ *My sympathy to the family. I worked with her years ago at the bank. Such a nice person.*



Wanda Baker - December 07, 2023 at 09:36 PM

SG

“ *Sharon G. purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Janis M. Gillis.*



Sharon G. - December 07, 2023 at 03:18 PM