



## Ellie Jo Metzger

September 19, 2025

Ellie Jo Eckert Metzger, 49, passed away peacefully on September 19, 2025, after courageously battling cancer for sixteen years.

Ellie was born on January 22, 1976, in Huntington, Ellie was the beloved daughter of Nancy (Ray) Bonebrake, and Jim Eckert (and his late wife, Connie Eckert). She grew up surrounded by love, laughter, and siblings: Melanie (Brad) Hull, Pete Eckert, Jennifer (Dennis) Vigar, Shelly Sands, Scott (Gina) Sands, and Stacy (Paul) Knipscheer; Ellie is also survived by her Grandmother, Nita Yordy of Huntington, IN; her 12 nieces and nephews, she was lovingly known as “Aunt Ellie,” a role she cherished dearly and her beloved dog Gertie. Ellie is preceded in death by her grandparents, Eugene & Peggy Drabenstot, Bernard & Ruby Eckert, and Noel Yordy.

Ellie graduated from Huntington North High School in 1994 and went on to pursue her dream of driving trucks. Whether hauling grain or operating a dump truck for Zahm Excavating, she found true joy and purpose behind the wheel. Ellie had previously driven trucks for Farmer Grain, Cunningham Ag, and Fausz Tucking.

Animals were at the center of Ellie’s life. Horses were her greatest passion, from her days in 4-H to her membership with the American Quarter Horse Association and the American Pinto Horse Association. She found peace on

trail rides and comfort in the quiet company of her horses. For nearly three decades, Ellie and her beloved horse, Follie, shared a connection that could only be described as extraordinary. Follie was more than a horse—she was Ellie's confidant, her steadfast friend, and her companion through the changing seasons of life. Ellie and Follie are reunited at last. The boundaries that once kept them apart dissolve, and together they roam free—two old friends, side by side, just as it was always meant to be.

Ellie also adored dogs; every one of them was loved and spoiled, especially Gertie, who will carry on Ellie's spirit of loyalty and love. An avid outdoorswoman, Ellie looked forward to spring turkey hunting trips with friends, often traveling to nearby states. She relished the hunt, but even more, she treasured sharing her knowledge and passion for the outdoors, keeping her traditions alive.

Ellie met her long battle with cancer with extraordinary courage and strength. Surrounded by the love of family and friends, she remained determined and resilient, never losing her sense of humor, warmth, or grit. She will be remembered for her perseverance and her deep love for others. If Ellie could offer a final piece of wisdom, it would be this: "Be silly, energetic, selfless, resilient, compassionate, forgiving, loyal, loving, and doglike. Be like Gertie."

Visitation will be from 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 West Park Drive, Huntington, IN. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 am Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary. There will be one hour of visitation prior to the service. Burial will be in Gardens of Memory in Marion.

Preferred memorials to, Camp Red Cedar in care of Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 West Park Drive, Huntington, IN, 46750.

Please sign the online guest book at [www.baileylove.com](http://www.baileylove.com).

Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary is honored to serve the family of Ellie Jo Eckert-Metzger.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **23**. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary  
35 West Park Drive  
Huntington, IN 46750  
(260) 356-1710  
wecare@baileylove.com  
<https://www.baileylove.com>

## Service

SEP **24**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary  
35 West Park Drive  
Huntington, IN 46750  
(260) 356-1710  
wecare@baileylove.com  
<https://www.baileylove.com>

## Burial

SEP **24** (ET)

Gardens of Memory  
11201 S. Marion Road 35  
Marion, IN 46952

# Tribute Wall



“ Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary has created this video tribute in memory of Ellie Jo.



Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary - September 22, 2025 at 10:36 AM

LS

*Pete and family, I am so sorry for your loss. Praying for her and for everyone grieving. God bless you all*

Louay (Louie) Sitto - September 23, 2025 at 11:03 AM

LL

*A lovely video. I actually didn't know her, but came across this page. She looked to be like a beam of sunlight in the world. My condolences to all who loved her.*

Luann Lewis - September 23, 2025 at 03:33 PM

LT

*I don't know what to say. Nancy, Ray, Melanie, Pete, Jennifer you are in my prayers.*

Linda Tomlinson - September 23, 2025 at 07:38 PM

TS

“ Sorry for your loss Jim.  
Terry



Terry E Scher - October 01, 2025 at 09:33 PM

RN

“ Thoughts and prayers for the family. Tim & Renee and Andy Ness



Renee Ness - September 24, 2025 at 03:18 PM

VH

“ vickie hoover lit a candle in memory of Ellie Metzger



vickie hoover - September 24, 2025 at 08:24 AM

AA

“ Ellie, It was so nice to have you keeping our bulk material stocked and helping out with all you did with my business expansion. You will be missed. -Aaron Reust & Family/Employees at Reust Lawncare Landscaping Plants & More

Aaron - September 23, 2025 at 03:38 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ellie Jo Metzger.



September 23, 2025 at 10:18 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ellie Jo Metzger.

September 23, 2025 at 09:55 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Ellie Jo Metzger.



September 23, 2025 at 09:55 AM



“ *The Staff and Employees of FANUC America* purchased the *Basket of Memories* for the family of Ellie Jo Metzger.



**The Staff and Employees of FANUC America** - September 23, 2025 at 09:48 AM



“ *One of my very best friends growing up. So many fond memories... rest in peace Ellie Jo. Praying for all of you.*

**Alex Eckert** - September 22, 2025 at 08:53 PM



“ *Greg Selvey & Joy* planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ellie Jo Metzger.

**Greg Selvey & Joy** - September 22, 2025 at 05:52 PM

GJ

“ Greg Selvey & Joy purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Ellie Jo Metzger.



Greg Selvey & Joy - September 22, 2025 at 05:52 PM

SV

“ Scott, Gina, Birch & Veda purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Ellie Jo Metzger.



Scott, Gina, Birch & Veda - September 22, 2025 at 05:05 PM

BB

“ Bruce and Kimberly Bumgarner planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ellie Jo Metzger.

Bruce and Kimberly Bumgarner - September 22, 2025 at 12:31 PM

BB

“ Bruce and Kimberly Bumgarner purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ellie Jo Metzger.



Bruce and Kimberly Bumgarner - September 22, 2025 at 12:31 PM

LB

“ *Linda Bartrom lit a candle in memory of Ellie Metzger*



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**Linda Bartrom** - September 22, 2025 at 10:21 AM

SO

“ *Nancy and family, so sorry to hear of your daughter's passing. Thoughts and prayers for you all. Susie Giddens Orcholski*

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**susie giddens orcholski** - September 21, 2025 at 09:10 PM

TD

“ *Tom Downam purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Ellie Jo Metzger.*



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**Tom Downam** - September 21, 2025 at 05:47 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ellie Jo Metzger.*

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September 21, 2025 at 11:27 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Ellie Jo Metzger.



September 21, 2025 at 11:27 AM



“ McKain Family purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Ellie Jo Metzger.



McKain Family - September 21, 2025 at 09:10 AM



“ Our Deepest condolences to the family of Ellie. All of you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Terry & Pat Kelsey - September 21, 2025 at 08:17 AM



“ What a Beautiful courageous young woman. She is an inspiration to so many fighting the dreaded disease. RIP Ellie. Prayers to her family and friends 🙏



Mary Wilson - September 20, 2025 at 08:01 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Ellie Jo Metzger.*



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September 20, 2025 at 04:28 PM



“ *Joan Tardy lit a candle in memory of Ellie Metzger*



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**Joan Tardy** - September 20, 2025 at 01:49 PM



“ *Ellie is helping making heaven crowded just like Charlie Kirk said. God will take good care of her till you meet again. Love you Ray & Nancy.*

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**Mike & Debbie Harned** - September 20, 2025 at 12:47 PM