

The Nella Kersting Memorial Scholarship

Nella was born in Salyersville, Kentucky in 1941. She moved with her family to the North Judson area in 1944 and graduated from North Judson High School in 1959. The next year, she married local native, James Kersting. They built a successful business together and raised a very close-knit family.

When Nella and Jim's business, Kersting's Cycle Center, originally opened on Denham Road in northern Pulaski County as Kersting's Welding and Repair, Nella and Jim literally lived at the shop. Nella's time was completely consumed by the business and caring for her young family—daughter Sandy and sons Randy and Jason. Eventually, the couple built a home in North Judson, and Nella's door was always open to family and friends.



Years later, as Nella and Jim's adult children became involved in the family business, Nella turned her attention to designing and working on their World of Motorcycles Museum, which was established on the grounds of the Cycle Center. The museum houses an amazing and extensive collection of motorcycles and historic memorabilia and is a major tourist attraction in the area.

Nella tragically passed away on July 27, 2003 in a motorcycle-truck collision when she and Jim were riding home on their motorcycle after attending one of their granddaughters' sporting events. Those who knew and loved Nella remember her as a caring, dedicated, and humble person, who was devoted to her family. Nella faithfully attended her children's and grandchildren's sporting events, concerts and dances.

Serving the community was a priority as well. Nella was an active participant in the activities of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, assisted with the Meals on Wheels program, volunteered at Our Lady of Holy Cross Care Center, was a Republican precinct committee member, served on North Judson's Main Street Committee, and was a life-long member of the Harley Owners Group.

Nella Kersting's legacy of dedication to family and community will live on through the donor-advised Nella Kersting Memorial Fund, created to support charitable endeavors in Starke County, and through the Nella Kersting Memorial Scholarship Fund, awarded to qualified students graduating from North Judson-San Pierre High School who plan to attend college or a trade or vocational school.

Thanks to Nella and her loving family, future generations will know her name and benefit from her caring spirit.