



Thelma M. Brown, 81, of Big Rapids, passed away unexpectedly Tuesday, April 17, 2018.

She was born Nov. 25, 1936, in Harlan County, Ky., the daughter of James and Mae Bell (Fields) Ellenburg.

Thelma moved to Detroit as a young woman and found her first job at White Castle. She was an active member of the Detroit Gun Club, where she competed nationally, shooting skeet with the Michigan Wreckers. Thelma moved to Big Rapids in the early '80s. She worked for many years at the Holiday Inn in Big Rapids and

later at Fairman's Apparel. She was an active member of the Big Rapids community. She so enjoyed winning the Celebrity Harness Race during fair week and was a member of the Big Rapids Zonta Club. Thelma attended St. Peter Lutheran Church in Big Rapids.

She is survived by her partner, Bill Brown, of Big Rapids; brother, Jim (Pat) Ellenburg, of Taylor; sister, Kathleen (Donald) Reynolds, of North Carolina; several nieces and nephews; and special friend and caregiver, Tamra Stanton, of Luther.

She was preceded in death by her parents; son, John "Michael" Smith; and husband, Howard Brown.

Funeral services will take place at 11 a.m. Monday, April 23, 2018, at the Daggett-Gilbert Funeral Home with Pastor Johnathan Williams officiating. The family will greet friends from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 22, at the funeral home. Thelma will be laid to rest at Woodmere Cemetery in Detroit.

Memorial contributions may be made in Thelma's name to the Zonta Club of Big Rapids.

Share a memory or leave a condolence for the family by clicking the guestbook tab at [daggettgilbertfuneralhome.com](http://daggettgilbertfuneralhome.com).