Sossoman
Funeral Home & Crematory Center
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Lily Schelert Brown

June 7, 1943 - Oct. 6, 2025

Lily Schelert Brown, 82, of Morganton, NC, passed away Monday, October 6, 2025. Born on June 7, 1943 in Shepetivka, Ukraine, she was the daughter of the late Brethold Schelert and Elsa Rode Schelert. During World War II, her family was forced to flee their homeland and became refugees. Through the Lutheran World Relief, the family of eight came to the United States in April 1952. Grace Lutheran Church and the community of Hebron were their sponsors. The town became the Schelerts' new home.

Lily, who became deaf from a very early age, graduated from the Nebraska School for the Deaf in Omaha before attending Gallaudet College in Washington, D.C. Valedictorian of her class in Omaha, went on to earn a master's in education from the University of Tennessee. Her career was dedicated to teaching deaf-and-hard-of-hearing students. She taught at the Illinois School for the Deaf for three years and twenty-five years at North Carolina School for the Deaf.

In addition to her parents, Lily was preceded in death by two sisters, Maria Nedza (2001) and Edi Grossi (2019); and a brother, Fred Schelert, 2020.

Through an adult adoption in 2018, she is survived by her daughter, Carolyn Everett-Nartey and husband Dr. Maxwell Nartey, of Orland Park, IL; granddaughter, Kellie R.

Surratt of Morganton, NC; grandson, Desmond L. Everett and wife, Tyesha, of Rosedale, MD; brothers, Ewald Schelert, of Longmont, CO and Reinhart Schelert and wife, Wanda, of Albuquerque, NM; sister-in-law, Jenny Schelert of Lincoln, NE; brother-in-law, Charles Nedza of Bruning, NE; and numerous nieces, nephews and extended family.

The family will receive friends from 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, October 25, 2025 at Sossoman Funeral Home. The memorial service will follow at noon in the Colonial Chapel of the funeral home with Rev. George Logan officiating. Interment will follow in Burke Memorial Park.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

There she is... Heaven's a place with a beautiful blue sky A place you can see is lush green and hilly Look... and you can see her there... That's our Lily.

—Anonymous

We will miss our beloved Grandma Lily. Many knew her as Ms. Lily Brown, but our family knew her as our loving & kind Grandma Lily. Grandma Lily greeted us with a warm, big, bright smile every time we saw her. Our Grandma Lily was kind, gracious, smart, loving, quick-witted, and had a very good sense of humor. We happily enjoyed engaging with her and every visit was filled with joyful giggles and laughter. She may be gone, but she is certainly not forgotten. We will always remember her grace, compassion, kindness, and perseverance. Our grandma embodied love and strength, and her memory lives on in the hearts of all who loved her. May our beloved Grandma Lily always rest in Eternal Heavenly Peace.

—Adelrita Kline-Eckert

Miss Lily Brown, you’re truly an angel waking on Earth. Thank you for all that you’ve done for myself, my Wife, and our children. Your legacy of love, compassion, and success will live on. We Love you Lily Brown, The Everett Family

—Desmond Everett

In Loving Memory of Ms. Lily With heavy hearts and deep reverence, we honor the

In Loving Memory of Ms. Lily With heavy hearts and deep reverence, we honor the life of Ms. Lily—a radiant soul whose joy was contagious and whose kindness left a lasting imprint on every heart she touched. Her spirit a balm, and her presence a blessing. May you find comfort in the beautiful memories she gifted you, strength in the love she poured so freely, and peace in knowing she now rests in eternal light. We lift you in prayer, asking God to surround you with grace, healing, and the gentle assurance that love never dies—it simply transforms. Ms. Lily's legacy lives on in every smile she inspired, every heart she warmed, and every life she brightened. She was truly a dear heart, and her jovial spirit will echo in our hearts forever. Blessings and love to you all. Be encouraged.

—Brenett Warren

My deepest sympathy for your loss. I remember her as a woman who never gave up.

—Judy Ecklund

My deepest sympathy for your loss. Ms. Lily will always be remembered for her strength and kindness. May the warmth of cherished memories comfort you and her family during this difficult time. She was truly an awesome lady. Whenever you traveled to Maryland with her to visit, I enjoyed trying to sign language to talk with her. Sending prayers, love and hugs. May God Bless each and everyone. Much Love Theresa Everett Robinson and Family

—Theresa Everett Robinson

My condolences to the family. Ms Lilly will be missed. That exhilarating smile and always want to lend a helping hand. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. You fought a good fight and loved your daughter Carolyn. Rest in heavenly peace!!

—Cheryl Haymes-Lee

Cheryl Haynes Lee

Dearest Lily, you were one of a kind. My life was greatly enriched by my association with you.

–Ann Aldridge

–Lori Passmore

First of all, I need to thank my dear friend for sharing this sad news and an obituary with me. It was sad to learn that Mrs. Lily Schelert Brown, who was my Social Studies teacher at Joiner Hall and Jeter Hall on the campus of North Carolina School for the Deaf for several years, passed away. Needless to say, Mrs. Brown was an excellent teacher who was an expert at delivering different historical stories via American Sign Language fluently with no difficulty in our classroom, while I sat there in my desk, watched her telling a story with my fascination and keen imagination of how those people many years ago lived, functioned, thought and experienced their unique challenges in their daily lives, and appreciated her intelligence and courage into challenging us to think outside of a box. She not only required us to read our textbook, complete our assignments, and memorize those new vocabularies, but she also ensured that each one of us had our acuity, (sharpness or keenness of our mind, thought or vision), which put us to shift our perspectives into the same as what those ancient people

had in order to understand their struggles, strategies for changing our society for betterment, and accomplishments. Indeed, she was a magnificent historical storyteller. Thank you, Mrs. Brown, for coming to our alma mater, teaching us, and ensuring that we not only learned about historical

civilization, but we also understood how and why this civilization has evolved throughout many centuries.

—Lynda Ann Rankin Schott

The things we did not know until we read the obituary. We worked together on the campus of the NC School for the Deaf for many years and had some good conversations. Lilly cared for her students in special ways. Lord in your mercy keep her family and friends in your loving care as they navigate the grieving process. Thank you for sharing Lilly with us.

—Wayne Giese

Lily Brown was a fun person to be with and certainly very wise. We became fast friends in 2018. Altho time was short, it seemed much longer as we did many things together and our friendship was deep. We both loved to go to small towns in NC and explore. We shared love for puzzles and games. We laughed and cried together. We even curled each others hair . We had fun going to thrift stores and find treasures. Im blessed to call her my close friend. She was a dedicated teacher and wanted to share her knowledge and wisdom with her students. I will always cherrish our times together. Till we meet again, my dear friend, Lily Brown

—Linda kennedy

In life there are few moments that you get to meet someone so genuinely loving and authentically kind. It's a rare

so genuinely loving and authentically kind. It's a rare characteristic, but not for my Ms. Lily. Her smile was so beautiful like sunshine, it would light up a room. I will always cherish the memories of Ms.Lilly smiling and enjoying praise & worship. Hands raised, eyes closed feeling every vibration of the music as she worshipped her

King in spirit and in truth. I was fascinated and in awe of her ability to connect with the us during our worship experience. Although she didn't hear with her natural ears she heard clearly with her heart. I was so honored to know her. A woman of unwavering faith & strength. Love you Miss Lilly, rest well beloved. Forever in my heart Ms. Candi To the family, you are in my thoughts and prayers. To Carolyn and Kellie, I love you both and I'm a phone call away.

—Shonda Hollis

Aunt Lily, thank you for being one of the fun adults when I was a kid, and showing me that being expressive didn't need to be limited to a narrow set of "norms". Your patience with me in my sporadic ASL learning continued to be a huge gift, even in my local community with people you've never met. Thank you for the opportunity you gave for me to know Carolyn and all the LOVE that's expanded into. The deep example you gave of faith and forgiveness will ripple out forever around me, everyone who knows you, and the world.

—Jenny Elinora Grossi

Sending my sincere condolences to the family.Ms.Lily was such a sweet lady.She will truly be missed.She became a part of the Everett family many years ago.She was such a lady full of humor.May she Rest In Heaven.

—FELICIA Ridley

So sorry for your loss

—Tricia Hunt

Sending Prayers to you and the Family. I am so sorry for your loss, I will always

have memories of her. She was a beautiful woman of GOD many Blessings

—Theresa Everett Robinson