



Lily (Schelert) Brown
June 7, 1943 – October 6, 2025
Class of 1962

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

