



Billie Marie Chilson

June 8, 1941 - July 21, 2025

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Billie Marie Chilson, 84, of Towanda, PA, passed away peacefully surrounded by the love of her family on Monday, July 21, 2025. Born in Towanda and raised in Laceyville, Billie was the daughter of the late Lawrence and Marian Rosencrance.

Billie fondly recalled her wonderful childhood in Laceyville, where she spent cherished days with her grandmothers, learning about her Irish heritage—a part of her identity she embraced throughout her life. She was a firm believer in the “luck of the Irish,” often seen wearing her favorite color, green. Billie held deep affection for her parents and her brothers, especially her surviving brother Barry, and spoke often of the fun memories they created together. After graduating from Wyalusing Valley High School in 1959, Billie met and married the love of her life, LeRoy Chilson, on April 8, 1961. Their marriage was a true love story, marked by deep devotion, partnership, and joy for 64 incredible years. Together, they built a life full of love and laughter, raising four children and eventually welcoming grandchildren and great-grandchildren into their growing family.

In 1969, Billie and LeRoy opened “LeRoy’s,” a sub shop that would become a cornerstone of the community, serving Towanda and the surrounding areas for over 40 years. It was more than a business; it was a gathering place, a place of happiness, friendship, family and famously delicious “special sauce.” Billie

was more than a co-owner; she was a listener, a counselor, and a friend to anyone who walked through the door. She was the true heart and soul of the restaurant.

The husband-and-wife duo never slowed down as they continued their “sauce business” after selling LeRoy’s sub shop in the late 1990’s. Side by side, LeRoy and Billie made, bottled, labeled, and delivered their signature sauce to local businesses for many years, sharing their love of food and community with each batch.

Not only was Billie a businesswoman working alongside her husband, but in 1973, she became the first woman to serve on the Towanda Borough Council, where she dedicated eight years to improving her community and breaking barriers for women in leadership.

Billie loved reading, especially visits to Barnes & Noble to pick out a new book (or two). Beyond reading, Billie’s true passion was her family. She never missed a special event or life milestone. She particularly enjoyed going to her grandchildren’s sporting events and would always be the first one there to get “her lucky seat.” She cherished her trips to Erie, family gatherings, baking, and nightly car rides with LeRoy to enjoy the scenery. Her home was always open and her heart always welcoming.

Billie was preceded in death by her parents, Lawrence and Marian Rosencrance; brother and sister-in-law, Juby and Sally Rosencrance; nephews, Pete, Patrick, and Larry Rosencrance; aunt, Marie Foote; sister-in-law, Peggy Rosencrance; father- and mother-in-law, Harry and Irene Chilson; brothers-in-law, James, LaRue, Harry, and Richard Chilson; and her granddaughter, Amelia Chilson.

She is survived by her devoted husband, LeRoy Chilson; brother, Barry Rosencrance of Asheville, NC; children: Linda Chilson of Lake Wylie, SC; Barbi (Lew) Elliott of Towanda, PA; Brenda (Jim) Roberts of Towanda, PA; and LeRoy (Lisa) Chilson II of Erie, PA; grandchildren: Megan Fairchild of Athens, PA; Mazie (Sean) Underwood of Lake Wylie, SC; Kasey Elliott of Towanda, PA; Darcy (T) Thompson of Wysox, PA; Mitchell Benjamin of Towanda, PA;

Cassie (Nate) Smith of Ulster, PA; Alexis (Bob) Totleben of Erie, PA; LeRoy (Chelsey) Chilson III of Erie, PA; and Julie McGraw of Chambersburg, PA; along with several great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews; sister-in-law, Beverly Dunn, and dear family friend, Mike Sena.

Although Billie was small in stature, she had the heart of a lion and a true fighting spirit. Her love, wisdom, and strength touched the lives of all who knew her. She leaves behind a legacy of kindness, community, and unwavering devotion to her family.

Visiting hours will be on Saturday, July 26th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Maryott-Bowen Funeral Home in Towanda, PA with a celebration of Billie's life beginning at 5:15 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions in Billie's name be directed to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital by going online to www.stjude.org or to the Towanda Public Library, 104 Main Street, Towanda, PA.

Memories and condolences may be expressed by visiting www.bowenfuneralhomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Bradford County Memorial Park

20452 Route 6
Towanda, PA 18848

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 26. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Maryott-Bowen Funeral Home
217 York Ave.
Towanda, PA 18848
(570) 265-2272
info@bowenfuneralhomes.com

Celebration of Life

JUL 26. 5:15 PM (ET)

Maryott-Bowen Funeral Home
217 York Ave.
Towanda, PA 18848
(570) 265-2272
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Tribute Wall

JU

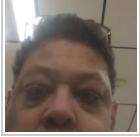
“ *Billie was a dynamo. She will be missed!
RIP
Julie Moriarty*

JuliaMoriarty - August 08, 2025 at 06:58 PM

CG

“ *Leroy and family. Billie was a great lady. I first met her at the best restaurant in Bradford County. I learned quickly that family was the heart and soul of your family. When you ordered your food and it comes to you know you are at the best and no one can say? The brand is the great bundle of onions. I found there will never be another hoagie with this taste, smell and the love that made it complete. I had the honor of working in the old Leroy which was purchased by TMH. When working there you felt the honor to be part of a family history. I would tell people that your wife and Leroy and family that You are a great landmark of Bradford County. Billie always had that great smile. She will be greatly missed, My condolences and prayers are with you Leroy. God Bless You Carole Gehring. Ps I forgot when Christmas I bought 12 bottles of Leroy Sauce and they were in my family Christmas Santa bags. It was always the first thing they looked for in their bags was your Leroy Sauce. that you*

Carole Gehring - July 29, 2025 at 12:51 PM



“ To the family Leroy and barbie Paul and the rest of the family my sincere condolences on the loss of Billy , she was a kind woman and I remember when we got adopted here and went to leroy's she came and sat down and said do you know you have just gotten the two best people I know as parents made me feel not scared anymore and she was so right the love and attention we got was never lacking only when in trouble. Billy and Leroy both would see me in public and ask me how mom and dad were doing when they were both alive and see how I was after we lost both of them you all will be in my prayers thoughts and know she will be looking down on you all and be p oud of you much love to you all

Michelle Bull

Michelle Bull - July 24, 2025 at 03:55 PM



“ LeRoy, we are sending our condolences to you in the passing of Billie. Though I am somewhat of a younger cousin to you, as well as been away from the area, we know that you both were busy and active in the Towanda area. My parents thought much of you and the family. Trust God will comfort each of you at this time. On behalf of my sisters and myself, Paul Fitch

Paul Fitch - July 24, 2025 at 01:12 PM



“ Dear LeRoy, Linda, Barbi, Brenda, LeRoy and all of the family,
I am so sorry for your loss. Loved Billie, such a good person and I always loved going to the restaurants. She will surely be missed. Again my deepest sumpathy. (((((hugs))))))



Claire Holton -Lizon - July 24, 2025 at 09:48 AM

MS

“ My deepest condolences to you Linda and all of your family in the loss of your Mom. I have many fond memories of hanging out at "Leroy's" as a kid and a teenager. Your parents gave us a safe place to be with friends and I have never had a better hoagie than one from Leroy's. I remember your Mom fondly.

Michele Strohl - July 24, 2025 at 09:33 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Billie Marie Chilson.



July 24, 2025 at 08:32 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Billie Marie Chilson.



July 23, 2025 at 09:25 PM