

# *Lillian McClelland*

*March 12, 1908 – October 25, 1997*

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*News story from the Toledo Blade, Sunday, October 26, 1997*

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## *Foreign Language Teacher Spent over 30 Years at Schools in Area*

**Lillian M. McClelland, who taught foreign languages in northwest Ohio and Michigan schools for more than 30 years, died of complications of a stroke yesterday in her Sylvania Township home, She was 89.**

**Mrs. McClelland had been in poor health since a stroke in February and was cared for around the clock by her longtime friend and housemate, Lavone “Shorty” Witting. Nursing students from the University of Toledo and Medical College of Ohio helped.**

**Before the illness, Mrs. McClelland was “a very strong, very independent, very active person,” her daughter, Nina said.**

**She served a first term in 1978-1980 as president of the Beta chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa national education honorary. “She was 85 when she ran for president again,” her daughter said. “I thought that was optimism at its finest.” Mrs. McClelland was elected and served through 1996.**

**She retired in 1973 from the Bedford Public Schools, where she taught for about a decade. She taught Spanish and French most often, although she could teach languages including German and Japanese.**

**“I really think that she loved people, young people in particular,” her daughter said.**

**A Toledo native, Mrs. McClelland grew up in the Old West End and was a graduate of Scott High School and Ohio State University. She did graduate work at the University of Toledo.**

**She began her teaching career in the Gibsonburg schools. She moved to Alpena, Mich., in the 1940's for a job in the school system there and taught in the Sylvania schools for several years, beginning in the early 1950's.**

**A sense of duty motivated her to attend all school functions, even those in which she had no role. Besides attending home sports events, she drove the Sylvania junior cheerleaders to all away games.**

**At one home basketball game, the players met her at the door, gave her a corsage, and escorted her to the bench, where she sat for the duration of the contest. "I've always been so proud of that," her daughter said. "She was pretty popular."**

**As a single parent, Mrs. McClelland didn't have the luxury of traveling. But in later years, mother and daughter visited Mexico, Scandinavia, London, and Hawaii. They also enjoyed short getaways to the family cottage on Lake George on the Indiana-Michigan border.**

**"She was the best mom in the world. She tried very hard to provide even beyond her means, to see that people got what they wanted." said her daughter, who has a doctorate in environmental chemistry. "It wasn't easy to put me through college. I will always be grateful to one wonderful person," she said.**

**Surviving are her daughter, Dr. Nina I McClelland, and, sister, Fern Mervos.**

**Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday in the Angsberg-West Mortuary, where the body will be after 7 p.m. tomorrow.**

**The family requests tributes to a foreign language scholarship fund that her daughter plans to establish in Mrs. McClelland's name at Bedford High School.**

*By Mark Zaborney, Blade Staff Writer*

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***Obituary as published in the Toledo Blade, Sunday, October 26, 1997***

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**Lillian Welker McClelland, 89, of Toledo, passed away Saturday, October 25, 1997 at her residence. Mrs. McClelland taught six foreign languages during her career, but principally Spanish and French. She retired in 1973 from the Bedford Public School System, but spent several years as well, in the Sylvania, OH, and Alpena, MI, public schools.**

**Since 1970, Mrs. McClelland was an active member of Alpha Delta Kappa, the national education honorary fraternity. She served as president of the Beta Chapter from 1978-80, and again from 1994-96. For many years, Lillian was active in the Business and Professional Women's organization and in Reformation Lutheran Church.**

**She is survived by her daughter, Dr. Nina I McClelland, Ann Arbor, MI, ; sister, Fern (Nicholas) Mervos, Deerfield Beach, FL; dear friend, Lavone "Shorty" Wittig, Toledo, OH; nephews, Robert Mervos, Lancaster, PA, Richard Collins, North Fort Myers, FL, Willard Collins, Bellfontaine, OH; nieces, Mary Jo (Edward) Gibson, Berryville, VA, Joy (John) Benedec, Irwin, PA, Janet (Dale) Hoodlebrink, Pemberville, OH; 11 grand nieces and grand nephews.**

**Friends are invited to visit from 7-9 p.m. Monday in the Angsberg-West Funeral Home, 3000 Sylvania Ave., where funeral services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday, with Rev. Nancy Eaton-Reding, Trinity Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor, officiating. Interment in Toledo Memorial Gardens.**

**The family suggests that tributes be made in the form of contributions to the Lillian McClelland Foreign Language Scholarship Fund, which will be established at Bedford High School, Bedford, MI.**

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**Please make an entry in the [Guest Book](#) to offer your personal memories, recollections and experiences with Mrs. McClelland. Others would really like to hear from you.**

**If you prefer, send any photos and thoughts to honor Mrs. McClelland's memory to the webmaster and they will be added to these pages: [Email Webmaster](#)**

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