Woman known as Peace Pilgrim killed in car crash

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KNOX — The blue eyes never will make contact with another individual again.

The voice which carried across a room so clearly, reaching her listeners with an unwavering conviction in the power of love and truth, is stilled.

Peace Pilgrim, who wandered the North American continent as a witness to peace for more than 27 years and had spoken in Valparaiso Sunday, was killed in an automobile accident Tuesday afternoon east of Knox.

She was a passenger in a car driven by Euwell Ward of Bass Lake, who had offered her a ride to her next speaking engagement in Elkhart.

Police said the Ward car was hit head-on by a vehicle driven by Dana McPherson of Knox, who crossed the median line on Indiana 23.

Peace Pilgrim, 72, died at the scene.

Ward, who drove the senior citizens’ van in the Knox area, died a few hours later at Starke Memorial Hospital in Knox.

Peace Pilgrim spoke at three services at United Methodist Church in Valparaiso Sunday. The Rev. John Wolf, pastor of Valparaiso United Methodist Church, had known Peace Pilgrim since the late 1950s. He found after her death her “contact point” in Cologne, N.J., which was her mailing address while she wandered the country, was in fact her younger sister, Mrs. Eugène Young.

Peace Pilgrim’s real name was Mildred Norman. She was born July 18, 1908, in an area near Cologne, according to her birth certificate, which she carried among letters in her pockets. She also is survived by a brother in North Carolina.

Bremen Funeral Home in Knox is in charge of funeral arrangements. Burial in New Jersey will follow cremation.

Memorial services aren’t planned locally but it is expected people across the nation will observe her wishes for anonymity with personal services of their choice.