



Kathleen Kay Kuzmiak

October 5, 2021

Kathleen Kay Kuzmiak, departed this life on Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at The Mennonite Home after a lengthy battle with multiple myeloma. Kathleen was the daughter of Floyd and Imogene Eleanor Kline Horst.

Born on November 17, 1947, at the Mt. Springs Hotel in Ephrata which served as the hospital until 1949. She is survived by many cousins, beloved friends, colleagues and former students.

Kathleen graduated from Ephrata High School in 1965. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary English at Bloomsburg State College in 1969. In 1972, Kathleen was awarded a Master's of Education degree on Secondary Counseling from Millersville University. She dedicated her life to a career with the School District of Lancaster, beginning as a History and English teacher at Edward Hand Junior High School where she also advised the school newspaper, co-advised the cheerleading squad and directed the school play.

In the 1970's, Kathy transitioned from a position as guidance counselor at Edward Hand to a counseling position at J. P. McCaskey High School. During these fourteen years, she held several offices in the Lancaster County Counseling Association. She often shared that of all her jobs being a guidance counselor was her favorite. Touching the lives of students as they faced personal challenges, giving pep talks, drying tears redirecting anger and helping them choose a path for their future gave her a sense of fulfillment. Many of these students became lifelong friends.

After earning a supervisory and principal certification from Temple University, she was promoted to a position of House Principal at J.P. McCaskey High School in 1987. After three years, she moved to Reynolds Junior High School as principal guiding the school through transition to middle school concepts and organization.

In retirement, Kathy continued her forty-year commitment on the Board of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Scholarship Fund. She also served as treasurer for Chi Chapter of Delta

Kappa Gamma Society International for 15 years and state finance chair for six years. Her love of cats led her to volunteer with pet shelters, always helping her beloved, Ozzie, Pet, Max, Monet, Sheba and Sara Lee, close to her heart.

After retirement from the School District of Lancaster, she worked for Millersville University as an adjunct professor mentoring grad students pursuing their principal certification. Her favorite part time job in later years was as an assistant archivist at the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society at the Lancaster Theological Seminary.

While many of Kathy's friends were sports fans, she preferred a good book, movies or plays; going to the theatre in Lancaster, Mt. Gretna, Hershey or NYC was a trip to look forward to as was any casino coast to coast. Traveling was her other love with photo albums filled with memories from 12 countries and 45 U.S. states. While she did not complete her "bucket list" to visit all 50 states, she did get to check off Russia with a river cruise in 2012.

During her last months in her battle with cancer, Kathy bemoaned the state of affairs in her beloved country. She was extremely saddened by the lack of civility which was accepted at the highest level of our government.

The family would like to personally thank the Barshinger Radiation Team, the Oncology Department at Barshinger and Dr. Brislin at Westphal Associates, as well as the staff at the Mennonite Home Rehab for their constant and loving care.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend Kathleen's Life Celebration Memorial Service at The Groffs Family Funeral Home, 528 W. Orange Street (corner of W. Orange & Pine Sts.), Lancaster, PA 17603 on Saturday, October 23, 2021 at 11:30 A.M. with The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin and The Rev. Richard Berg officiating. Friends will be received at the Groff Funeral Home on Saturday, October 23, 2021 from 10:00 A.M. until the time of the service. The interment will be private at Hopeland United Methodist Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to Pet Pantry, 26 Millersville Road, Lancaster, PA 17603, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 6303, Lancaster, PA 17607-6303, or the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, c/o Lancaster Theological Seminary, 555 West James Street, Lancaster, PA 17603 or www.erhistoricalsociety.org.

The livestream link for the service is below:

<https://client.tribucast.com/tcid/1741764561>

If the person you are talking to doesn't appear to be listening be patient, as Winnie The Pooh said "It may be simply be that he has a small piece of fluff in his ear."

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



The Groffs Family Funeral & Cremation Services Inc. - October 18, 2021 at 02:36 PM



“ Kathy's memorial service was perfect. She was loved and respected.

cheryl campbell - October 23, 2021 at 09:11 PM



“ I've known Mrs. Kuzmiak for over 30 years. First as principal at Reynolds Jr. High. My mom taught there for 25 years and became good friends with Kathy. Then as I began working with the school district as an adult, I was able to see her on a more regular basis. She attended my wedding and baby shower and I had spent some time joining my mom in the Reynolds' lunch bunch.

Kathy was a remarkable, admirable and caring person. Heaven has gained a dynamic woman. Kathy, you'll be sorely missed. May you rest now, pain free, with your kitties by your side.

-Christelle Thaw-Bolton

Christelle Thaw-Bolton - October 23, 2021 at 10:35 AM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Kathleen Kay Kuzmiak.



October 22, 2021 at 09:28 AM



“ 80 files added to the album LifeTributes



The Groffs Family Funeral & Cremation Services Inc. - October 18, 2021 at 11:27 AM



“ Kathy was my roommate at Bloomsburg and we remained friends throughout our lives. I'll miss her very much but will have so many memories that will keep her alive in my heart and mind.

Ruth Andrione - October 16, 2021 at 11:08 AM



“ Kelly and Lorraine Horst & Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Kathleen Kay Kuzmiak.



Kelly and Lorraine Horst & Family - October 12, 2021 at 12:50 PM



“ Kathy was a very dear friend of my sister (Lynn Williams) both counselors at McCaskey HS at one time. I knew Kathy but only through my sister and it was just a year ago that she died so Kathy and I started up a friendship with daily mails this past year and I just want to say, "Thank you Kathy for getting me through my grief this past year" This was the kind of person she was, so accomplished but so caring and someone who put aside her own pain to comfort someone else. A beautiful human being. Rest in peace Kathy!
Love from Carol

Carol Bechtel - October 11, 2021 at 12:22 PM



“ Ms. Kuzmiak, was my Guidance Counselor From Edward Hand Junior high. Before it became a middle school. I TRULY loved her she always had a smile soft spoken. And always willing to help you. I attended Edward Hand Junior High from 1970 til 1973. Rest In Perfect Peace Ms. Kuzmiak My Condolences to all of her Family

Delores (McFadden) Gonzalez - October 11, 2021 at 04:57 AM



“ I first met Kathy on the Board of the MLK, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund. From that first meeting, I could tell what a dedicated educator she was and how much she loved her students and her job. She was a wonderful soul! Kathy devoted many years and hours to the MLK, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund, serving in many capacities on the Board. We could always count on Kathy to do what she promised to do. I feel fortunate to have shared those times with her. She was an inspiration and will be sorely missed by all of us on the Board. She lived a life dedicated to the benefit of others. - Becky Grube

Becky Grube - October 10, 2021 at 02:18 PM



“ I have known Miss Kuzmiak since Edward Hand Days. She was my teacher. But, my favorite and unforgettable memory of her was, when I visited McCaskey, when she was a Counselor. She asked me into her office to show me something. On her desk was a picture of me and my 4 siblings, as a family. As I choked up, I asked why she had that picture there? She said that we were her inspiration. As my tears flowed, she said it was because of children like us that she does what she does. She loved kids! I hope she knew that SHE inspired many children all these years. R.I.P. Miss Kuzmiak. You will always be in my thoughts.

Lugene Pasker - October 10, 2021 at 11:12 AM



“ I've known Kathy forever; I will remember her forever.
Rest In Peace, dear friend.

Brenda Dooley - October 10, 2021 at 09:10 AM



“ Kathy was a Classy Lady I had the pleasure of knowing and working for at Reynolds Middle School when she hired me. Always brought a smile to my face. I know you are missed. My you rest in Peace until we meet again someday. God Bless you!
Semper fi
Jon Bruce

Jon Bruce - October 10, 2021 at 07:24 AM



“ I loved Kathy great lady I cleaned for her and we had great talks ,she will b greatly missed bye so many people including me very much .Heaven gained a beautiful lady she was awesome .May she R.I.P love u kathy and fly high.



Tina Ruiz - October 09, 2021 at 05:27 PM