



## Barbara Jean Skelly

April 26, 1942 - March 31, 2024

Barbara Jean Skelly, age 81, of Kankakee passed away Sunday, March 31, 2024 at home surrounded by her family. She was born April 26, 1942 in Kankakee, the daughter of Fred & Amelia (Laux) Habing. Barbara married Richard Skelly on April 4, 1964 at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Kankakee. Barbara was secretary for Catholic Charities and worked in the shoe department at Sears for many years. She enjoyed going to garage sales, scrap booking, helping at church, playing Mahjong, camping, spending time with her friends and high school classmates. Most of all, Barbara loved spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was a parishioner of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Kankakee.

Surviving are her husband of nearly 60 years, Richard Skelly of Kankakee; five children, Ann Berns of Kankakee, David Skelly of Kankakee, Ellen (Eric) Schmidt of Manteno, Matthew (Megan) Skelly of Ottawa, and Steven (Kim) Skelly of Manteno; one brother, Thomas Habing of Rockford; three sisters-in-law, Vera Habing of Wilmington; Nancy Habing of Ames, Iowa; and Pam Habing of Milford; one brother-in-law, Larry (Marilyn) Skelly of Joliet; seven grandchildren, Alex (Aisha) Berns, Megan (Ronnie) Wilcox, Emilia Skelly, Hannah Skelly, Lucas Schmidt, Heidi Schmidt, and Owen Skelly; five great-grandchildren, Magnolia Berns, Charlotte Berns, Artica Berns, Quinn Wilcox, Blake Wilcox; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews. Barbara is preceded in death by her parents; three brothers, Ronald Habing, Charles Habing, and Patrick Habing; and four sisters-in-law, Sharon Habing, Maureen Habing,

Cheryl Skelly, and Joan Skelly.

Visitation will be held from 4-7 p.m. Thursday, April 25, 2024 at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home in Kankakee. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 26, 2024 at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Kankakee. Rev. John Peeters will celebrate the Mass. Cremation rites will be accorded following the Mass. Private family inurnment will be held at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Catholic Charities or St. Patrick Catholic Church.

# Cemetery Details

## Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

20953 Hoff Road  
Elwood, IL 60421

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 25. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Kankakee - Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home  
1480 W. Court St.  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

## Funeral Mass

APR 26. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church  
428 S. Indiana  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 932-6716

# Tribute Wall

BE

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. I have fond memories of Dick and Jeannie stopping by when they were in town. I know we ,as a family , stopped in Kankakee when we passed through once or twice. I always thought she was the sweetest!! My sympathies to all!

Beth Meyer Elmore - April 25, 2024 at 12:31 PM

DC

“ Dear Ann, my sincere condolences to you and your family. I hope that all your special memories bring you some comfort in the coming days. Sincerely, Donna Casino

Donna Casino - April 24, 2024 at 07:48 PM



“ Serenity Prayer 30" Sonnet was purchased for the family of Barbara Jean Skelly.



April 17, 2024 at 01:24 PM

CW

“ Christopher Wilcox lit a candle in memory of Barbara Jean Skelly



Christopher Wilcox - April 08, 2024 at 05:43 PM

LS

“ You never forget your high school memories. Jean, Janet Kietzman Metz and I created great memories in our junior and senior years of high school. Jean was a true friend. I spent many weekends at her house and she had a wonderful family who always welcomed me. She held great loyalty to our class of 1960 and KHS in general. Without a doubt she was a great mother and wife. She once told me that the only pie recipe she ever made was one I gave her. We laughed over that. Lois David Swartz

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**Lois Swartz** - April 05, 2024 at 09:07 AM

DC

“ Prayers to the family



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**Debbie Clodi** - April 04, 2024 at 08:57 PM

JM

“ I have known and been a friend of Jean since High School. She was one of the nicest and most giving person that I've known. She will be greatly missed. My heartfelt sympathy to all her family. Janet Kietzman Metz

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**Janet Metz** - April 04, 2024 at 04:34 PM

JL

“ *Special thanks to Jean for keeping the KHS Class of '60 connected and updated. Her dedication and friendship will be missed by all.*

*I always looked forward to receiving her e-mails and reminders of the monthly lunches, although I am thousands of miles away, in Brazil, and unable to attend.*

*My sincere sympathy to her family. May she rest in peace. 🙏*

*Julia Long*

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**JULIA ANN LONG** - April 04, 2024 at 04:34 PM

MT

“ *Prayers for the family at this sad time. May God's peace and comfort fill you and may fond memories bring smiles.*



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**Mary Thomson** - April 03, 2024 at 11:20 PM

KE

“ *So many of us will be forever grateful for all the effort Jean put into organizing our high school reunions and monthly lunches. Her caring friendship will be greatly missed by me and so many others. May all the special things about Jean live on in our hearts forever. Please accept my most sincere expressions of sympathy to you and your family and all of Jean's loved ones.*

*Karen Dusharme Ennen*

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**karen Dusharme Ennen** - April 03, 2024 at 05:56 PM

ML

“ Jean is and was all about the KHS Class of 1960. She organized our 63rd class reunion in June of 2023. Our monthly class of '60 lunches at various restaurants around Kankakee/Bradley/Bourbonnais were very meaningful for all of the members of our class. We love you, Jean!

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**Michael LaReau** - April 03, 2024 at 05:00 PM

JR

*Jean and her committee have conscientiously kept the KHS class of 1960 alive through the years and across the miles. We all extend heartfelt thanks and sympathy. Jane Strasma Randall*

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**Jane Strasma Randall** - April 05, 2024 at 04:37 PM

MA

*Jeannie is my cousin, always there. From riding on the back of her bike to watching her bounce down the stairs with her full skirt and get into the convertible for a date, I always enjoyed being around her. My mother was her Godmother and their closeness was shown over and over, never faltering through the many years Jean was what one may say faithful, and in all those years I never heard any unkind words come from her mouth. I have a billion memories, and so glad my last trip to Kankakee was partly spent with Jean and Dick. What delicious memories to hold dear to my heart. And so glad we had our last conversation when she called and told me her cancer returned. We were able to say our goodbyes and until we meet again. So glad you are my cousin. Thank you.*

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**maryBulliner** - April 22, 2024 at 10:29 PM