



"Birdie" Alberta Jean Blanchette

October 18, 1948 - June 26, 2025

"Birdie" Alberta Jean Blanchette, age 76, of Kankakee, passed away Thursday, June 26, 2025 at her home.

She was born October 18, 1948 in Kankakee, the daughter of Albert & Lorena Guimond Blanchette.

Birdie worked at St. Mary's Hospital as an inhalation therapist. She served in the Kankakee Auxiliary Police Force. She had also worked at the city of Kankakee and Gould Battery.

Birdie enjoyed racing and barrel racing with her horses. She worked at the Kankakee Speedway as the clown in the stock cars, carrying the American flag. She taught CCD at St. Rose Catholic Church. She volunteered for Project Recycle for many years. She belonged to the missionary family of Blessed Boleslawa.

Birdie loved yard work.

Surviving are three sisters, Charlotte Nolte of Kankakee, Candace Stednitz of Kankakee, and Kay (Michael) Peeken of Kankakee; and many nieces and nephews.

Birdie is preceded in death by her parents; and two sisters, Myrna Bork and Ordene Corsaro.

Visitation will be held 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Monday, June 30, 2025 at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home in Kankakee.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. at St. John Paul II West Campus in Kankakee. Rev. Matt Pratcher will celebrate the Mass.

Cremation rites will be accorded following the funeral Mass.

Inurnment will be held at a later date at St. George Cemetery, St. George.

Memorials may be made to St. John Paul II Parish.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **30**. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

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

Funeral Mass

JUN **30**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John Paul II - West Campus
953 South 9th Avenue
Kankakee, IL 60901

Tribute Wall

LT

“ *Birdie will be missed..... her signature smile and warm hugs*❤️



Linda Terrell - July 02, 2025 at 10:57 AM

LT

“ *Birdie will be missed.....always greeted me with hug and smile*❤️



Linda Terrell - July 02, 2025 at 10:54 AM

KD

“ *Birdie was such a wonderfully special person! She shared her love of gardening freely, never minded answering what probably seemed like crazy questions.....giving both of us some good laughs. She was so good about a group of us coming out for apple picking, and seasonal decorating of the farm was a specialty. Her gifts of warmth, generosity, and lovable humor will be missed by so many! RIP Birdie, until we meet again!*

Kathi Daliege - June 29, 2025 at 01:39 PM

HS

“ *She was special!*

*I came to know her from Project Recycle.
She was dedicated to the ministry and served through her physical
difficulties and often in much pain.*

*We became friends and would hang out after the Tuesday night
sessions. She shared that she was ready to go.*

*We remembered each other in prayer.
God bless the memory of my dear friend. I will miss her!*

Harlyn Schmidt - June 28, 2025 at 04:56 PM

SK

“ *What a lady! I always looked forward to going to 9:30 Mass because
I knew Birdie would be there and greet me with a warm hug. I had
no idea she was a Clown, but that fits her! Thank you so very much
for being in my life. I will miss you, but I also know you are closer
now to your loved ones in Heaven than you have ever been before!*

Steve Kelley - June 28, 2025 at 11:04 AM

SM

*Mission Family from Kenya sending their condolence. We're together in
prayer 🙏. May Birdie rest in eternal peace. 🙏 sr. Angela M Milonska
MSF*

Sr. Angela Milonska MSF - June 30, 2025 at 12:05 PM

JL

*My deepest condolences to the family. Birdie always had a smile on
her face. She was such a joy to be around. Although I haven't seen
Birdie in years, she often popped up in my memories. Once a cousin ,
always a cousin . RIP Birdie 🙏🙏*

Julie (Grinstead) Leary - July 01, 2025 at 09:51 AM

EF

“ Loved working with Birdie at Project Recycle. Will miss you my Friend.

Eleanor Franks - June 28, 2025 at 09:48 AM

SC

“ So sorry for the loss of "Birdie", a very lovely individual, inside and out. She touched the lives of all her family in so many ways, along with all of those who knew her. One of my fondest memories of her was when she was the clown at the Kankakee stock car races when I was young and Dad (Murl Peeken) would take me to the races. She let me borrow her clown outfit when I was young so I could wear it to hold a small "carnival" for our neighborhood kids. She always cared about others and always loved being at the family birthday parties and get togethers. You are loved my many, Birdie, and will always be in our hearts forever. Your light shall shine endlessly. Shelley Cox



Shelley Peeken Cox - June 27, 2025 at 08:32 PM

RP

“ I was honored that she taught me some of her pitching moves. Thanks for teaching me some things.
Ruthann Pinnow

Ruthann Pinnow - June 27, 2025 at 07:32 PM

CB

“ One heck of a softball player!!! Fly high Birdie.

Cindy Bittmann - June 27, 2025 at 02:55 PM