



## Carolyn Lee Brinkman

June 12, 1943 - September 13, 2016

Carolyn Lee Brinkman, 73, of Herscher, passed away Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at Heritage Health, Normal, IL after a long journey with Alzheimer's.

Carolyn was born June 12, 1943 in Pontiac, IL the daughter of Charles and Anna Holzhauer Silk. She married Roland (Ron) Fortin on August 7, 1965 in Manteno, IL. He passed away on March 31, 1966. She later married Elmer Brinkman on August 11, 1978 in Colorado. He passed away on February 23, 1999. She was preceded in death by her parents and sister Joan Anderson.

Surviving are two children, Christel (Steve) Denault of Bloomington, IL and Scott (Nicole Boie) Brinkman; step-sons Gary (Nancy) Brinkman, Naperville, IL, and Terry (Nancy) Brinkman, Bonfield, IL; sister Judy (Ron) Boster, Herscher, IL; brother-in-law Jim Anderson, Kankakee, IL; 4 grandchildren, Deirdre Denault, Oconomowoc, WI; Alyssa Denault, Chicago, IL; Nathan Denault, Chicago, IL, and Jacob Brinkman, Herscher, IL.

Carolyn graduated from Illinois State University and was a first grade teacher at Bonfield Grade School for 33 years. She retired in 2004. She loved her students and worked hard to meet their academic needs. She also went above and beyond to help them with their personal needs, by providing breakfast, clothing, and emotional support to those who needed it. She put much effort into her students' classroom plays and made sure they had a field

trip to Brookfield Zoo each year. She was a model of what every teacher should be.

Carolyn was a private pilot and enjoyed flying together with Elmer in their Piper Cherokee 235 N8649W. She loved to tell the story of how she won the spot-landing contest at the Morris, IL airport while flying in for breakfast one Sunday.

Carolyn lived a challenging life, including childhood adversities and the loss of two husbands. She was an example to her children and family, instilling in them a strong work ethic, the importance of family and faith, and the value of getting an education. She fought adversity with courage and served as a role model for her family and others.

Visitation be from 9-11 a.m. Saturday at Clancy-Gernon Funeral home, Bourbonais. There will be a Christian service at 11:00 a.m. at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to Bonfield Grade School, 522 East Smith St., Bonfield, IL 60913.

# Cemetery Details

## Pilot Cemetery

Herscher, IL 60941

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 17. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.  
295 Main St., NW  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

## Funeral Service

SEP 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.  
295 Main St., NW  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

# Tribute Wall

EL

“ Carolyn was the absolute sweetest. I'm so thankful to have met her!! So sorry for your family's loss of this amazing woman! ❤️

Elizabeth - September 18, 2016 at 07:55 PM

DB

“ Only loving memories of a wonderful person... Our condolences. I know she will be greatly missed by all who knew her. The Bakers

Denise Baker - September 17, 2016 at 08:16 AM

KM

“ I enjoyed talking with Christel and her mom when we would go to her house on weekends during our college years at ISU! When I started teaching I always admired what a great teacher she was. Karla Martins.

Karla Martins - September 16, 2016 at 08:05 PM

MS

“ So sorry that this has happened, our thoughts and prayers for family and friends



Monte and Donna Schweizer - September 16, 2016 at 11:01 AM

DM

“ I'm very sorry for the loss of Carolyn.  
I had the chance to meet her at The Legacy Wing of Heratige Health unit where my mother Maggie was .  
I spent a lot of time there the last year and got to visit with Carolyn and some of her family on several ocasions.  
Again , very sorry for the loss of your Mom, and Grandmother.  
Dan Mitchell

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**Dan Mitchell** - September 16, 2016 at 10:39 AM

SP

“ Carolyn was a class act and it was my pleasure to work with her.  
Both of our children had her for their 1st grade teacher. My sincere sympathy to her family.

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**Sherry Parks** - September 15, 2016 at 09:45 AM



“ Mrs. Brinkman was my 1st grade teacher. I have many good memories of her and our classroom. I'm sure BGS misses her very much. I am sure she touched many lives in ways we will never know.

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**Wendi Jones** - September 14, 2016 at 08:26 PM