



Cecilia "Ceci" A. Erickson

July 24, 1943 - September 26, 2013

Cecilia A. "CeCi", age 70 of Kankakee (Limestone) peacefully entered into her Heavenly Home on September 26, 2013, at her home in Kankakee, after her very lengthy battle with cancer.

CeCi was born July 24, 1943 in Burlington, Iowa, the daughter of Cecil O. and Mildred A. Von Arx Stice.

She graduated from North High School in Omaha, Nebraska in 1961 and graduated from Olivet Nazarene University earning a B.S. in Music Education in 1977. She also attended University of Nebraska at Omaha and Dana College in Blair, Nebraska, where she met and married her husband Bob. CeCi taught Music at Wagner House of Music in Omaha, Nebraska, Chicago School of Music, and Piersol's Music in Kankakee, and private music lessons in her home. Also, she taught Music at Westview High School and Eastridge High School in Kankakee, Central High School in Clifton, and Music and Physical Education at Grace Baptist Academy in Kankakee.

After her teaching career, CeCi became an Insurance Agent and Investment Representative with the Mutual of Omaha Companies for 29 years, winning many company and industry honors and awards. She also placed insurance clients through the George Ryan, Jr. Insurance Company, Bourbonnais.

CeCi was a member of the Kankakee Valley Association of Life Underwriters, a Past-president and past member of the Board of Directors, also the Life Underwriting Training Council Chairperson for five years. She was also a member of the Illinois Association of Life Underwriters, serving on the 1997

nominating committee for the State of Illinois slate of Officers. She was also a member of the National Association of Life Underwriters, American Health Insurance Association, and the Life Underwriters Political Action Committee. CeCi was also a member of the national Quality Award and a member of the Million Dollar Round Table.

CeCi enjoyed politics, and helped to raise funds for the campaigns of U.S. Congressman Jerry Weller, and 21st Circuit Judge Clark E. Erickson, and Judge Susan Tungate, and supported numerous other candidates. CeCi was selected as a liaison between the insurance industry in the state of Illinois and the congressional office of U.S. Representative Jerry Weller in Washington D.C.

She was a member of the Four Rivers Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, and served as Chairman of the Nominating Committee for 4 years. She also helped to organize the Top Docs-Top Cops Basketball Game Fundraiser for many years, with the proceeds going to the Alzheimer's Association. She was former member of The Hundred Club, a former member of Working Women's Council, a member of the Kankakee Valley Symphony Orchestra, playing the cello, and a member of the Chicago Bears Fan Club, and as an Angel Tree Volunteer for the Prison Fellowship Ministries. She was nominated and selected for Oxford's Who's Who's (the elite registry of extraordinary professionals) for insurance agents and investment representatives. CeCi participated in the Kankakee Principal for A Day program at Kankakee Kennedy Middle Grade School, Bourbonnais Elementary School District, BBCHS, Manteno Intermediate School, and Kankakee Steuben Elementary Center. She was on the Board of Directors of the Arthritis Foundation, Kankakee Chapter and was active in all of their Fundraising activities and efforts such as the annual Arthritis Walk, Jingle Bell Run, and supported luncheons, style shows, and the Bradley House Fundraiser for the Arthritis Foundation. CeCi was also a member of the Kankakee Valley Wind Ensemble, playing percussion, under the direction of David Conrad. She was also a member of the Rotary Club of Kankakee serving as President and on

the Board of Directors. When visiting Australia, Mexico, and Israel, she presented a Kankakee Club Rotary Banner to the current President of each International Club President.

CeCi was a member of Grace Baptist Church for the last 43 years and active in their music ministries, Women's Missionary group, Joy Club, a member of the church choir until her illness, and supported all the ministries of Grace Baptist Church.

Surviving are three daughters and two sons-in-law, Kimberly (Dale) Lehnus of Bourbonnais; Jill Mitchell, of Kankakee; and Julie (Daniel) Leopold, of Moline; five grandchildren, Erica, Laura, and Michelle Lehnus, Allison and Jacob Leopold; one step granddaughter, Danielle (Kyle) Davis; brother-in-law, Donald (Deborah) Erickson, of Bourbonnais; sister-in-law, Nancy (Dr. Ronald) Reilly, of Atlanta, Ga.: two nieces and three nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bob, her parents; one sister; and precious granddaughter, Hayley Mitchell.

Visitation will be from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home, West Kankakee. The funeral service will be at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home, officiated by Pastor Dwight Ascher. The Burial Service will be held at Limestone Township Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Rush-Riverside Cancer Center, Kankakee or Hospice of Kankakee Valley.

Cemetery Details

Limestone Cemetery

Route 113
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-1764

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 1. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

OCT 2. 10:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

TL

“ So sad to see she has passed. I was thinking about her lately. She was my piano teacher for 7 years. Went to school with her daughter. She was always a very kind person. I am not a pianist, I can plunk but, I do love the instrument and have tuned and rebuilt them since 1986. RIP

Toni Knapp Lebeck - October 21, 2021 at 10:18 AM

KL

“ I've known CeCi for 20 years. She was one of the nicest people I've ever met in my life. I was one of her clients, but also we were friends. Went to lunch a couple times. And we, for years, exchanged Christmas cards. She always made it a point to show me that she still had my cards in my file. That's how sweet & thoughtful she was. I will never forget her. She was very "Special", & will be missed. I loved her. My thoughts & prayers are with her family.

Karen Leutloff - October 05, 2013 at 06:23 PM

KM

“ CeCi will be remembered in our hearts! Kim, Julie, and Jill.....we are sorry for your loss - but she is with your dad now and in your hearts forever.

Karen Erickson Mulder and family

Karen Erickson Mulder - October 02, 2013 at 07:55 AM

JO

“ *She was truly one of the nicest people put on this earth. Everyone loved and adored her. She was so caring and a 'genuine' person. She will be sadly missed more than anyone will ever know. Sympathy to her family and loved ones.*
Joyce

Joyce - September 30, 2013 at 09:56 PM

DO

“ *Dear family of this marvelous woman. I met CC 7 years ago and we become instant friends. Her warm smile, great sense of humor and a genuine love of life will always be remembered by me. She fought a long hard battle with cancer but she never gave up. A true hero in my book! I will truly miss her. Donna G Peotone IL*

donna - September 30, 2013 at 08:47 PM

ME

“ *Mrs. Erickson was a great band teacher & friend.....Loved her!!! You will be missed.....RIP*
Michelle Embree Berg

Michelle Embree - September 30, 2013 at 07:44 PM

MB

“ *Michelle Embree Berg lit a candle in memory of Cecilia "Ceci" A. Erickson*



Michelle Embree Berg - September 30, 2013 at 07:41 PM

CA

“ CeCi was "one of a kind" and will be greatly missed by her Mutual of Omaha family. Our sincere condolences to her family. Cody and Candy Abbott

Cody Abbott - September 30, 2013 at 12:48 PM

JG

“ I first met CeCi in 1995, when I began working with her at Mutual of Omaha in Kankakee. I knew from the first time that I heard her laugh that we would become friends. I had the pleasure of working with her for 8 years. During that time, I got to know her family and so many amazing people in the Kankakee community. CeCi's volunteerism always conveyed her concern for those around her. Her passion for education shined through her work. I can remember several Bulls Games, trips to Wrigley Field, Worlds Series Trips and parties that we shared. All memories that I will treasure. Some of my fondest memories were the College Debate Tournaments that CeCi hosted at Grace Baptist Academy. So many memories. So many smiles. CeCi, you will be missed.

Jeff Gregory - September 29, 2013 at 07:19 PM

LJ

“ You have my deepest sympathy at this difficult time in the passing of your mother, grandmother. God be with you all.
. You and all the family are in my thoughts and prayers.
Lucille Jarka

Lucille Jarka - September 29, 2013 at 07:16 PM

SK

“ Love, hugs and prayers to the family. I am sorry I am not able to be with you. Remember Kim I am there in spirit and will be hugging and holding your hand through all of it.

Love to you all

Sharon, Ashley, JT Klei and Brad Cason

Sharon Klei - September 29, 2013 at 04:24 PM

KG

“ To the Family of CeCi....thank you for all the years you shared her with us in the community. I counted her as a good friend and she was a joy to know and to work with. As a former newspaper photographer, I had the opportunity to work with her often and I enjoyed each and every experience with her.

My sincere and heartfelt sympathies to you at this sad time. I know that she is up there meeting and greeting everyone with her beautiful gift of gab.

Sincerely,

Kathie Grazis

Kathie Grazis - September 28, 2013 at 09:40 AM