



Denise F. Kirchner

March 7, 1960 - June 13, 2023

Denise F. Kirchner was born March 7, 1960, in Kankakee, Illinois the daughter of the late Kenneth and Ruth (Hertz) Dato. She passed away peacefully Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at Riverside Medical Center.

Denise worked at Tousignant's and Tanner's Collision Center for many years, where she gained lifelong friends. After her Multiple Sclerosis diagnosis, she delivered The Daily Journal for 22 years.

Denise was an advocate for the MS society and led the local MS support group. She gave in death as she gave in life, as she was an organ and tissue donor.

Denise married Eric J. Kirchner October 14, 1978. Eric and Denise had an everlasting devotion for over four decades that inspired everyone around them to love wholeheartedly as their enduring love never waivered. They spent their lives side by side and are now reunited in heaven.

Denise is survived by her son Ben (Kayla Shafer) of Limestone; her sisters Cindy (Jim) DeYoung of Bourbonnais; Marsha Baker (Phil Snyder) of Chebanse; her brothers Pete (Connie) Dato of Reddick; Dave (Heather) Dato of Bonfield; her mothers-in-law Ardis Knight of Limestone; Nancy (Jerry) Snedecor of Bonfield; her brothers-in-law Kevin (Sheila) Kirchner of Bonfield; Nigel (Kathy) Knight of Bourbonnais; her sister-in-law Heather (Jeremy) Thurston of Herscher, and many nieces and nephews. Preceding her in death along with her parents, were her beloved husband Eric, her infant sister Jolene; her fathers-in-law Ralph "Butch" Kirchner; Bryan Knight and infant

sister-in-law Elizabeth.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Visitation will be from 3-7 p.m. on Tuesday June 20, 2023, at Clancy Gernon Hertz Funeral Home in Kankakee with a celebration of life service at 7 p.m.

Memorials may be made to Uplifted Care (Hospice of Kankakee Valley) or to the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

JUN **20**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Memorial Service

JUN **20**. 7:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

DW

“ *My sympathy to Denise's family. She was a very sweet and caring lady.* ”

Donna Witheft - June 20, 2023 at 03:31 PM

KH

“ *Karen Holderman lit a candle in memory of Denise F. Kirchner* ”



Karen Holderman - June 20, 2023 at 01:55 PM

KH

“ *Kim Senesac Hazzard lit a candle in memory of Denise F. Kirchner* ”



Kim Senesac Hazzard - June 20, 2023 at 04:33 AM

JJ

“ *Jolinda Jones lit a candle in memory of Denise F. Kirchner* ”



Jolinda Jones - June 19, 2023 at 02:00 PM

BG

“ *Bill And Gloria Graham lit a candle in memory of Denise F. Kirchner*



Bill and Gloria Graham - June 17, 2023 at 05:05 PM

BG

“ *Denise was a very sweet person always stopping for a chat when she saw you. So sorry for your loss will keep in prayers.*

Bill and Gloria Graham - June 17, 2023 at 05:05 PM

NW

“ *I remember Denise growing up as being the quiet one, always with a smile. She grew into a sincere and caring person.*

Nanette Wood - June 17, 2023 at 08:09 AM

MS

“ *Mark Stipp lit a candle in memory of Denise F. Kirchner*



Mark Stipp - June 16, 2023 at 05:38 PM

MS

God Bless to all! She was a dear friend at school. She will be missed. RIP, my friend 🙏

Mark Stipp - June 16, 2023 at 05:42 PM

KS

“ So sad for your loss. Denise always had a smile when she delivered the newspaper. She was a good lady. Prayers
Kathy Sullivan

Kathy Sullivan - June 16, 2023 at 10:55 AM

DN

“ Dear Ben and Dato cousins, I am so sorry that Denise has passed away. What a fighter she was! She always made me laugh. Like the time she stalked me in Walgreens, up and down several aisles, trying to be sure it was me before she said hi. We had a great laugh many times over that one.

On a serious note, she was with me in my dad's hospital room when he died. It was special for both of us cause she said the only other person she was with when he died was her dad. A memory for me forever.

Hugs and prayers to all of you. Love , Cousin Debbie (Klenzak) Netherton and Bob.

Debbie (Klenzak) Netherton - June 16, 2023 at 12:20 AM

JJ

“ Jolinda Jones lit a candle in memory of Denise F. Kirchner



Jolinda Jones - June 15, 2023 at 06:23 PM

KA

“ Kathy Lott

KathyLott - June 15, 2023 at 04:10 PM