



## Dennis W Kirkman

May 21, 1938 - December 1, 2024

Dennis W. Kirkman, age 86 of Morocco, Indiana and formerly of Bradley, passed away Sunday, December 1, 2024 at VNA Hospice Center in Valparaiso, IN. He was born May 21, 1938 in Bedford, IN, the son of Reverend L.L. and Ruth (Lowe) Kirkman. Dennis married Bette Hilt on February 14, 1994.

Dennis attended Mt. Carmel High School and was a member of the Golden Aces where he was a three sport athlete. He was inducted into the Mount Carmel and BBCHS Hall of Fame.

Dennis was an avid Chicago Cubs Fan and Chicago Bears Fan. He enjoyed fishing, traveling by truck, and spending time with his family and grandkids. Dennis was the Athletic Director at Bradley Bourbonnais Community High School for twenty-four years. He was a basketball and baseball coach in Dale, IN, Potomac IL, and Oblong, IL. Dennis received a basketball scholarship at McNeese State University in Louisiana. He completed his Bachelor of Science at Oakland City College in Oakland City, IN and his Master of Science at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, IN.

Dennis was a veteran of the United States Army and the United States Air Force playing on the USAF Basketball team.

Surviving is one son, Doug Kirkman of Vancouver, WA, one stepson John Drake of Goodyear, AZ; one daughter, Beth Kirkman of Morocco, IN; one sister, Rhonda (Bud) Howard of Mount Vernon; one sister-in-law, Becky Kirkman of Evansville, IN; four grandchildren, Lindsey (Joe) Wilcox, Alison

Price, Christina (Andrew) Magruder, Stepheny Santella; eleven great grandchildren, Karmen, Delaney Sue, Henry, Bella, Ava, Emelia, Zoe, Delaney, Abigail, Cole, and R.J.; three nephews, Mark (Hannah) Kirkman, Seth Hodges, Jeff (Jennifer) Hodges; two nieces, Gail (Rob) Greene, Rhonda Rae Webber; great nieces and nephews, Xander, Emma, Ava, Dax, and Parker.

Dennis is preceded in death by his first wife, Vonda Gehret; his parents; one brother, J.D. Kirkman; one sister, Janna Hodges; one nephew, Matt Kirkman; one niece, Angela Russ; one brother-in-law, Jerry Wilson; one stepson, Scott Drake; and one grandson, Michael Santella.

Visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. until the 3:00 p.m. service on Saturday, December 14, 2024 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, Bourbonnais.

Cremation rites will be accorded following the service.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Best Buddies Program at BBCHS 700 West North Street, Bradley, IL 60915.

Please sign his guestbook at [www.clancygernon.com](http://www.clancygernon.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 14. 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM (CT)

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

## Funeral Service

DEC 14. 3:00 PM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall

BE

“ Thinking of you and your family especially today, Beth!  
Love Beth (Griffith), Dean, William and Landon Schafer & Family

Beth - December 14, 2024 at 08:26 AM

J'

“ To the Kirkman Family: Denny was my high school coach in Potomac before moving on to the BBCHS position. I have so many good memories of him in the classroom and on the field and court....and even in the drivers' ed car. He was also able to attend a few of our class reunions to provide some good times and good laughs. He was a great example for me, for which I am thankkful. I offer condolences for his passing and wish you God's blessing as you celebrate his life and legacy.

John C. Alexander Potomac HS '71 - December 11, 2024 at 12:29 PM

MS

“ Denny, an outstanding Athletic Director, mentor and friend who always supported his coaches. Never heard Denny say an unkind word about anyone. True Professional!

Mark Sutton - December 05, 2024 at 06:44 PM

DU

“ Heartfelt sympathy to family/friends of a terrific & kind man, Denny whom I did office work/tasks for during my 4 yrs at BBCHS

Diana Uribe - December 05, 2024 at 04:19 PM

JA

“ Sending sincere condolences to the Kirkman family. From the BBCHS ❤️👤❤️ Class of 1979

Juli Altmyer - December 05, 2024 at 09:01 AM

MA

“ Mike Austin lit a candle in memory of Dennis W Kirkman



Mike Austin - December 04, 2024 at 07:43 PM

BP

“ To Denny's family I send my deepest sympathy. I worked at BBCHS with Denny for many years. He was the sweetest man and always had something nice to say. God sent for an angel and it had Denny's name on it. RIP  
Barbara Phillips

Barbara Phillips - December 04, 2024 at 10:20 AM

CE

“ Connie Eaker lit a candle in memory of Dennis W Kirkman



Connie Eaker - December 03, 2024 at 09:26 PM

TM

“ It was an honor taking care of Dennis in his last days. My prayers are with all of you. ~Tammy Miegl RN VNA

Tammy Miegl - December 03, 2024 at 09:00 PM

DD

“ Dennis Dunlavey lit a candle in memory of Dennis W Kirkman



Dennis Dunlavey - December 03, 2024 at 04:32 PM

DM

“ Denny thanks for 50 years of true friendship Love you Brother 🙏

Dan Merten - December 03, 2024 at 08:48 AM

JF

“ Jaymie Falkenhan lit a candle in memory of Dennis W Kirkman



Jaymie Falkenhan - December 03, 2024 at 03:01 AM

DT

Mr. Kirkman was such a kind & friendly man. He always smiled & spoke to me when we passed in the hallway. Treated everyone the same. He will be missed. My heartfelt sympathies to his family ❤️🌹

Deborah Tofte - December 07, 2024 at 05:01 PM

JH

“ *Janna Hodges Obituary*

*Janna Lavere (Kirkman) Hodges*

*Evansville, Ind.*

*Janna Lavere (Kirkman) Hodges, 72, of Evansville, Indiana, passed away Monday, February 5, 2018 at Deaconess Midtown Hospital.*

*Janna was born in Mount Carmel, Illinois on November 12, 1945 to the late Lloyd and Ruth (Rowe) Kirkman. She was a graduate of Vincennes Lincoln High School. Janna was an avid Indianapolis Colts fan and enjoyed playing BINGO. She lived her life for her children and her grandson.*

*Janna is survived by her sons, Jeff Hodges (Jennifer) of Owensboro, KY and Seth Hodges of Owensboro, KY; sister, Rhonda Howard (Bud) of Mount Vernon, IL; brother, Dennis Kirkman (Bette) of Valparaiso, IN; sister-in-law, Becky Kirkman of Evansville, IN; grandson, Ryan Wrigley Hodges; and nieces and nephews.*

*Janna was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Jay Kirkman, and a daughter, Kathleen Hodges.*

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**Jeff Hodges** - December 02, 2024 at 11:06 PM

PH

*Thank you Jeff Hodges, I appreciate that Dennis's sister and your mother, Janna Kirkman Hodges has been recognized as preceding her brother, Dennis in death.*

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**Pam HodgesHeckler** - December 03, 2024 at 04:06 AM

DD

*It was an honest mistake. She was included but there was an error in translating from the handwritten version. It is being fixed. THANK you for your condolences.*

**Denny's Daughter** - December 03, 2024 at 01:34 PM

PH

*Thank you for the correction. I totally understand, this happened to me one time also. Again, we are so sorry. Denny friended me on Facebook within the last couple of years and I always enjoyed his posts and the pictures of his kids.*

**Pam Hodges Heckler** - December 03, 2024 at 03:20 PM



*Known Denny since we were in high school together at Mt. Carmel, IL. Will miss swapping emails and posts on FaceBook together. Rest in peace, old friend.*

December 06, 2024 at 02:41 PM