



## Diana Kay Menser

May 19, 1957 - March 26, 2020

Diana Kay Menser, age 62, entered eternal life on Thursday, March 26, 2020 having lost her battle with ALS after an incredibly courageous 3-year fight. Diana was born on May 19, 1957 at St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee. She grew up in Bradley graduating from Bradley Bourbonnais Community High School in 1975 and then Eastern Illinois University in 1979.

Diana was a teacher at Bradley Elementary District 61 for 33 years, having retired in May of 2017. She spent most of these years as a sixth grade history teacher. She loved teaching and enjoyed helping out by keeping score at sporting events, working back stage at plays, and tabulating at band contests. Chess club was also a very special part of her school year.

Diana was very involved in her local union, the Bradley Elementary Education Association as well as serving on the Board of Directors of the Illinois Education Association as chair of Region 44. Many 4th of Julys were spent at the National Education Association Representative Assembly.

Diana loved history and traveling to historical sites and museums. She thoroughly enjoyed the trips with her nephew and site seeing with her goddaughters. Although Diana never made it to Bhutan, the happiest place on earth, she is now in the happiest place of all!

Diana is survived by 2 sisters, Debbie Dunlavey of Bourbonnais and Donna (Shawn) Harris of Bradley; one brother, Dwayne (Rhonda) Menser of Lawrenceville, GA; two nieces, Jennifer Dunlavey and Stephanie White; three nephews, Daniel (AKA Boone) Harris, Damon (AKA Demon) Harris, and

Michael Menser; two goddaughters, Emily and Sarah Kay Hourihan. Believe it or not, two furry feline companions, Cricket and Gutzy, became very important to Diana.

Diana is also survived by her numerous friends who stood by her through this awful disease. "Words cannot express how grateful I am. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Diana is preceded in death by her parents, Arlene & Morris Menser.

Visitation will be held from 4-7 p.m. Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 16, 2020 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bradley.

Cremation rites will be accorded following the services.

Memorials may be made to the Les Turner Foundation for ALS or Hospice of Kankakee Valley.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL **15.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

## Funeral Mass

JUL **16.** 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church  
211 N. Center Street  
Bradley, IL 60915  
(815) 939-3573  
<http://www.stjosephbradley.org>

# Tribute Wall

MI

“ I remember her ruining my life. Bullied maliciously for 7 years because she embarrassed me in front of an entire class.

mike - December 27, 2020 at 10:54 PM

AN

*This is her obituary. It is highly disrespectful of you to comment this under a page celebrating her life. How dare you.*

anon - January 10, 2021 at 04:55 PM

DM

*I highly suspect Mike has never needed anyone's assistance to embarrass himself. Diana Menser gave every student a "clean slate" and her 100% unwavering commitment to help each student reach their full potential. Mike apparently was the rare student who would not make even a minimal effort to seize the opportunities made available to him. If his life has been a series of disappointments; he should quite blaming others and look in the mirror to see the true root cause of his failures. Clearly this person can count a total lack of class and respect for others among his shortcomings.*

Dwayne Menser - May 28, 2021 at 12:14 AM

TH

“ I am saddened to hear of Ms. Menser's passing. As one of her students at Bradley Central many years ago, I knew then that she was a terrific teacher. It isn't until later in life, upon reflection, that you come to appreciate the teachers that truly cared about the well-being of their students. She was one of those teachers. My thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

Troy Howell - July 10, 2020 at 03:13 PM

BB

“ She was a great teacher and volleyball coach! She made sure I always put a 100% in everything I did even when I didn't want to. She would sit with me during lunch and help me. I will never forget her! She will be greatly missed! She definitely made a difference in my life as I am teacher now❤️

Barbi Byrum-Green - July 03, 2020 at 10:00 AM

LS

“ Lunmetta Smith lit a candle in memory of Diana Kay Menser



Lunmetta Smith - July 02, 2020 at 06:19 PM

LS

“ Lunmetta Smith lit a candle in memory of Diana Kay Menser



Lunmetta Smith - July 02, 2020 at 06:18 PM

LH

“ You and your family have my deepest sympathy Debbie!



Leslie S Hedger - July 02, 2020 at 02:49 PM

LB

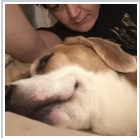
“ *My deepest sympathy to the Menser Family. I have fond memories of: having Brownie meetings in the basement of the Menser home with Mrs. Menser as our leader; our school days at Bradley Central and BBCHS; and many class reunions. A beautiful friend whom I will miss. Rest in Peace Diana. Love, Hugs and Tears, Linda (Zullo) Bohlmann*

Linda Bohlmann - April 17, 2020 at 01:44 PM

DB

“ *So very sorry for your loss*

Dennis & Beth Bisailon - April 08, 2020 at 03:58 PM



“ *Kimberli Cardosi lit a candle in memory of Diana Kay Menser*



Kimberli Cardosi - April 02, 2020 at 04:17 PM

LS

“ *Lunmetta Smith lit a candle in memory of Diana Kay Menser*



Lunmetta Smith - April 02, 2020 at 01:16 AM

KZ

“ So sorry to hear of her passing...  
Condolences to her family, I've been friends  
with Donna for years...”



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**Kerri Zimmerman** - April 01, 2020 at 09:01 PM

LA

“ One of my all time favorite teachers. I learned  
so much more than math or volleyball from  
her. My thoughts go out to her friends and  
family.”




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**Lani** - April 01, 2020 at 12:49 AM

ME

“ Melanie lit a candle in memory of Diana Kay  
Menser”



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**Melanie** - March 31, 2020 at 09:55 PM

 Mary  
Morgan

“ Mary Morgan lit a candle in memory of Diana  
Kay Menser”



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**Mary Morgan** - March 31, 2020 at 09:15 AM

DS

“ Sorry for your loss Debbie, Donna and Dwayne, Jennifer and Steph

Dennis Dunlavey Sr - March 30, 2020 at 01:16 AM

DS

“ Dennis Dunlavey Sr lit a candle in memory of Diana Kay Menser



Dennis Dunlavey Sr - March 30, 2020 at 01:14 AM

MC

“ Wonderful person and teacher. So glad I was able to work with her at Dist. 61, and also was an educator to our children. We pray God keeps your family in his arms and guides them through the days ahead. 🤍🙏



Marla McClure Coy - March 29, 2020 at 06:54 PM



“ Diana was a very dedicated educator that went over and beyond to ensure her students not only learned at high expectations, but also enjoyed learning.

*Rest in Peace, Diane.*



Tricia Hansing Nagel - March 29, 2020 at 01:48 PM

ES

“ Ms. Menser was my grade school teacher, she was a wonderful, caring and fun teacher. She was also creative, for misbehaving in her class she would have me write prepositions vs. what most other teachers do. I have fond memories of her and her classes. My thoughts and prayers are with her family during this time.

Eric Sadler - March 29, 2020 at 10:40 AM

BO

“ She was so nice and helpful to my son! No matter how many times he forgot his locker combination she helped him patiently! He was so thankful and so was I! I also had the pleasure of knowing her and she taught me a lot as well! Thank you for your hospitality and for being genuine! You will be missed by many!

Bobbi - March 29, 2020 at 09:12 AM

RB

“ Roland Boguszewski lit a candle in memory of Diana Kay Menser



Roland Boguszewski - March 29, 2020 at 08:40 AM

RB

I'll never forget the time when I grabbed her Barbie doll attempted to climb a tree with Diane in-tow. She caught me and as we fell to the ground my wrist broke. Great fun times growing up across the street. What a wonderful lady she grew into. Rest well in the arms of our loving lord my friend , rest well.

Roland Boguszewski - March 29, 2020 at 08:45 AM

CO

“ She made my class trip to Springfield the best! I loved going to her history class. I'm sure being local since birth and having taught at least 2 generations that she touch many and will be missed by many. May she rest in peace.

Chyenne Overacker - March 28, 2020 at 08:47 PM

DC

“ One of my favorite teachers and favorite people to work with. She was always so dedicated to the students and will be truly missed.

Dawn Camp - March 28, 2020 at 03:10 PM

TL

“ She was such a wonderful teacher an will be missed by many!!



Terilynn Lindsey - March 28, 2020 at 03:02 PM

WS

“ Diana was an awesome teacher to work with. Her dedication to the education of her students was her number 1 priority. She was a great friend and will be missed! ❤️

Wayne Sneed - March 28, 2020 at 02:25 PM

MB

“ *Mark Billingsley lit a candle in memory of Diana Kay Menser*



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**Mark Billingsley** - March 28, 2020 at 02:21 PM

SD

“ *A wonderful person and dedicated professional. A truly respected friend. RIP Ms. Menser.*

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**Sproat, David** - March 28, 2020 at 01:39 PM

AA

“ *You will be terribly missed, Diana.*



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**Amy Allen** - March 28, 2020 at 12:35 PM

DD

“ *Dawn Dayhoff lit a candle in memory of Diana Kay Menser*



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**Dawn Dayhoff** - March 28, 2020 at 12:16 PM

BH

“ *Diana was an amazing person and teacher. She will be missed by all.*

**Bertha Howisen** - March 28, 2020 at 12:05 PM

VF

“ *It was an honor to have known you through our years together in District 61. I pray that God blesses your loved ones with comfort and peace. You will be missed.*

**Vickie Francisco** - March 28, 2020 at 11:54 AM

DT

“ *I met Diana when I did my student teaching. She was a great teacher and had a wicked sense of humor. She fought a tough disease and now is at rest. I am sure she is already getting everyone and everything in line behind the pearly gates. God Bless her soul and sympathy to her devoted friends and her family.*

**Diane Tomic** - March 28, 2020 at 11:42 AM

PS

*I worked many years with Diana at dist . 61. We worked together in different areas of education! We both helped out with different games that helped the students learn about good sportsmanship qualities! She and I both kept score at different games! I know she was a wonderful teacher and friend, prayers go up for her family and friends left behind. Rest In Peace, Diana*

**phyllis Schall** - March 28, 2020 at 06:11 PM