



Joan "Jo" Grogan

February 9, 1943 - November 19, 2022

Joan E. "Jo" Grogan, age 79, of Kankakee, passed away Saturday, November 19, 2022 at her home.

She was born February 9, 1943 in Kearney, NJ, the daughter of Fred & Kathryn Rummel Bergbauer.

Jo was a retired teacher and coach at Kankakee High School. She attended schools in Park Forest and graduated from Eastern Illinois University in 1964, starting her teaching career at Kankakee High School that same year.

She was the cheerleading coach until the Title 9 gave her the opportunity to coach sports. She started as both the golf coach and swimming coach, then concentrated on being the swimming coach, a position she held until 2020.

Jo was named the 2021 Journal Sports Citizen of the Year.

She was inducted into the Kankakee High School Hall of Fame in 2013. Jo was the IHSA Sectional Coach of the Year in 1994 and 1995.

The Kankakee High School swimming pool is named The Grogan Natatorium, in her honor.

She had volunteered at River Valley Special Recreation, Heritage Village Nursing Home, and the Special Olympics.

Jo was a Red Cross Lifeguard Instructor and had also been an instructor for the Clifton and Kankakee Crocodiles.

She enjoyed golfing and hunting. She was an avid Alabama football fan.

Jo was of the Catholic faith.

Surviving are one sister and brother-in-law, Marion & Skip Genetski of Alabama; many friends, fellow teachers, and students, whose lives she has touched.

Jo is preceded in death by her parents.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

A memorial visitation will be held from 3:00 p.m. until the 6:00 p.m. memorial service on Wednesday, November 23, 2022 at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home in Kankakee. Deacon Patrick Skelly will officiate the service.

Memorials may be to a scholarship established in Jo's name.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

NOV **23**. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

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

Memorial Service

NOV **23**. 6:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

RM

“ Rosetta Mason lit a candle in memory of Joan "Jo" Grogan



Rosetta Mason - December 01, 2022 at 07:40 PM

JF

“ Jason Fischer lit a candle in memory of Joan "Jo" Grogan



Jason Fischer - November 27, 2022 at 07:53 PM

RR

“ You were the most understanding teacher and coach. Students loved you and respected you. You met them at their level. You will be missed by the generations you impacted.

Robert W Richley - November 26, 2022 at 08:37 PM

JG

“ As a PE teacher in District #111, I became acquainted with Jo, and got to know her better while supported my daughter who she coached on swim team at KHS in the 1990s. In later years, I'd occasionally run into her while golfing at Shamrock golf course. Whenever we'd meet, she had a ready smile and always recognized me. Jo was one-of-a-kind and left quite a legacy behind!

Janet Glidden - November 26, 2022 at 05:35 PM

MG

“ *Mary Gant lit a candle in memory of Joan "Jo" Grogan*



Mary Gant - November 24, 2022 at 11:26 PM

CS

“ *Cassandra Schmidt lit a candle in memory of Joan "Jo" Grogan*



Cassandra Schmidt - November 23, 2022 at 10:33 PM

MB

“ *A wonderful neighbor an amazing coach and a wonderful Lady. She will be Missed The Bieber family*



Maribeth Bieber - November 23, 2022 at 05:31 PM

CM

“ *Coach Grogan was a terrific person she always had a smile when this official came to officiate her meets. I first met her about 39 years ago. When I attended invitationals conferences and sectionals she would always come and say hello and with that great smile made me feel very comfortable at these meets. I hope some of the swimmers she instructed throughout the years really appreciated her style of coaching. She will be truly missed on the pool deck.*

Charlie McCarthy - November 23, 2022 at 03:51 PM

EL

“ Coach Grogan made an impact in my life and many others. She took care of a mangy bunch of boys and tried hard to make sure we ate like athletes and not couch potatoes. If someone can share where/when the scholarship is established or who to contact I will look here for details.

-Erik Lynch, BBCHS Waterpolo 2000's

Erik Lynch - November 23, 2022 at 10:52 AM



“ Mrs.Grogan was My favorite P.E teacher! She teased me in a fun way to work hard for "'straight' A's! I got my share of "A"S from her class alone!Mrs.Grogan I'll miss you something awful!!!!R.I.P Beautiful lady!Miss Kay Graham

Kay Graham - November 22, 2022 at 01:36 PM

JG

“ Coach Grogan made my high school years good ones. She pushed me to better myself and helped me overcome a lot of what held me back. I remember her fondly.

--JG, KHS class of 1996

JG - November 22, 2022 at 09:21 AM

PH

“ Jo was the Sophomore Cheerleading Coach at KHS. She was fun, demanding, and above all else fair. She made our squad the best we could be. She also worked hard on helping each of us reach our personal potential, something I will always be grateful for. She was one of those teachers whose impact I continue to feel to this day. She touched so many lives...Peggy Sale Hubbard

Peggy Hubbard - November 21, 2022 at 11:29 PM

JH

Her husband wasn't mentioned. I 'm guessing they divorced. I really liked him as a history teacher.

Janet Basinger Hoffer - November 22, 2022 at 04:27 PM

TR

“ *She was an amazing person and I will forever remember the impact she made in my life!
Thanks Coach Grogan!!* ❤️



Teona R. - November 21, 2022 at 10:56 PM

JO

“ *What a blessing she was to the swim program at KHS. May she rest in peace*

Jackie Oconnor - November 21, 2022 at 09:38 PM



“ *She was my homeroom teacher at Kankakee High the year after she started teaching. RIP*



Bob Schneider - November 21, 2022 at 09:08 PM

TD

“ *Tom Dandelles lit a candle in memory of Joan "Jo" Grogan*



Tom Dandelles - November 21, 2022 at 08:57 PM

PL

“ Paul Leach lit a candle in memory of Joan "Jo" Grogan



Paul leach - November 21, 2022 at 07:54 PM

AM

“ Alina Miles lit a candle in memory of Joan "Jo" Grogan



Alina Miles - November 21, 2022 at 07:44 PM

RM

“ Rachel Miles lit a candle in memory of Joan "Jo" Grogan



Rachel Miles - November 21, 2022 at 07:44 PM

MC

“ Mr And Mrs Cooper lit a candle in memory of Joan "Jo" Grogan



Mr and Mrs Cooper - November 21, 2022 at 07:33 PM

JL

“ As we wander through life we sometimes meet human beings without knowing how really special they are. I had the pleasure of meeting such a special person in my great friend Jo Grogan. Jo was so special in so many ways. She was a dedicated teacher who really loved her job, a dedicated coach who always looked after the best interests of her athletes, and a caring friend who always had a smile and a willingness to listen.

She will be truly missed by all whom she shared so much of her time and devotion with.

I will always cherish the time I spent with Jo as her Springboard Diving Coach and as a coworker during our teaching careers in Kankakee.

John Leveridge

Johnny Leveridge - November 21, 2022 at 06:01 PM

CR

“ Candy Ray lit a candle in memory of Joan "Jo" Grogan



Candy ray - November 21, 2022 at 05:53 PM