



Joyce Ellen Irle

December 19, 1946 - December 25, 2025

Joyce Ellen (Lambert) Irle, age 79, of Kankakee, passed away peacefully on December 25, 2025 at Riverside Hospital surrounded by loved ones.

Born on December 19, 1946 in Kankakee, Joyce was the second daughter to Leonard and Hazel (O'Connor) Lambert. A celebration baby after WWII. She attended Bishop McNamara High School and Eastern Illinois University.

Throughout her life, she was known for her kindness, open-mindedness, patience, understanding and empathy. Everyone who knew her, loved her.

Joyce retired from the Kankakee Public Library, where she worked for many years in the circulation department. She prided herself on being able to find obscure books in the vast library system. She delighted in creating book displays in which she painstakingly decorated and chose books. Other jobs she held included being an election judge in Kankakee and working coat check at Sully's restaurant in Kankakee. She had also worked at the Bradley Roper Building as well as a secretary for her father's business Leonard Lambert Plumbing and Heating. She spent her life taking care of those she loved. She was known as Grandma Joycie and always said that interacting with her grandchildren "made her day." She also enjoyed gardening and flowers, music, dancing and reminiscing about her memories.

Joyce is survived by her children, Lisa (Todd) Richmond, Brian (Amy) Irle, and Amy (Andy) Palmer. Her grandchildren Cortney, Emily, Lucas, Odin, and Hazel. Her great-grandchildren Jace, James, and Bode. Her sister Jeannine (Stephen) Grumish. And several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Leonard and Hazel Lambert. Her sisters Carol Neese and Carmen Moroney. And her former husband, Michael Irle.

A visitation will be held on Tuesday, March 17, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais with a memorial service to immediately follow.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Kankakee County Training Center (KCTC).

Joyce will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

MAR 17. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

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

Memorial Service

MAR 17. 1:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

CL

“ I have many good memories of my classmate and cousin, Joyce. Joyce was always smiling, positive and friendly to everyone she ever encountered. It was an honor to share our family history and friendship with Joyce. Connie Lambert

Connie Lambert - March 21 at 10:48 AM

KZ

“ Kara Zediker planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joyce Ellen Irle.

Kara Zediker - March 10 at 01:46 AM

KZ

“ Kara Zediker purchased the Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." for the family of Joyce Ellen Irle.



Kara Zediker - March 10 at 01:46 AM

BM

“ Brian & Amy, very sorry for your family's loss!

Berry McCracken - March 08 at 11:58 PM

CS

“ Amy, so sorry for your family's loss.

Cheryl SEGNERI - March 07 at 11:36 AM

CM

“ *Condolences to Joyce's family, she was a lovely person, may she rest in eternal peace.*

Cathie (Sederstrand-Bergan) Miedema



Catherine Miedema - January 07 at 08:04 PM

MB

“ *MaryPat Taylor Barney lit a candle in memory of Joyce Ellen Irle*



MaryPat Taylor Barney - January 01 at 08:23 PM

MB

I'm so sorry for your loss!

MaryPat Taylor Barney - January 01 at 08:24 PM

SW

“ *Sharon Raymond White lit a candle in memory of Joyce Ellen Irle*



Sharon Raymond White - January 01 at 07:39 PM

DL

“ *May deepest condolence to all of Joyce's family. Rest in peace.* ”



Debra K. Lambert - January 01 at 11:22 AM

BA

“ *Bev And Dan Arseneau lit a candle in memory of Joyce Ellen Irle* ”



Bev and Dan Arseneau - December 31, 2025 at 09:38 PM

MA

“ *Sweet memories of Joyce growing up on Fraser Ave. My condolences to the families . Joyce was always very kind.* ”

Mary - December 31, 2025 at 07:08 PM

DN

“ *Brian and family - so sorry for your loss.* ”

Denise Nichols - December 31, 2025 at 03:18 PM

JG

“ *Our deepest condolences to Lisa, Brian, Amy, Jeannine and the rest of the family. Joyce will surely be missed. Praying for everyone. 🙏🙏
Love, David and Judy* ”



Judy Grumish - December 31, 2025 at 12:45 PM

CM

“ *My sympathies to Joyce’s family. She was a lovely lady and a caring mother.* ❤️

Cynthia McBarnes - December 31, 2025 at 07:47 AM