



Juanita Reichert Merrill

September 5, 1935 - June 20, 2024

Juanita Reichert Merrill, age 88, of Kankakee passed away Thursday, June 20, 2024 at Miller Healthcare Center in Kankakee. She was born September 5, 1935 in Chebanse, the daughter of Harold & Irene (Lambert) Reiniche. Juanita married Lyle Eugene “Gene” Reichert on April 11, 1953 in Kansas prior to him heading off to the Korean War. They had four children. He preceded her in death in 1987, after 35 years of marriage. She married Wayne Merrill in 1990. He preceded her in death in 1997.

Juanita was a loving mother of four children. They kept her on the move as the “bus driver”. She was very active in many areas in Kankakee. Juanita volunteered at Riverside Hospital for over 20 years as well as volunteered at Ascension St. Mary’s Hospital. She was active with the Kankakee Westview Spurs Parent Organizations. Juanita enjoyed playing in her bridge clubs, golfing, and traveling. She spent over 12 years with Walgreens at the Cosmetics Counter in downtown Kankakee. She loved her family and left them all with a rich legacy of kindness.

Surviving are her children, Cheryl Lynn (Fred) Hiles of The Villages, FL, Garry Allen (Elaine) Reichert of Burr Ridge, IL, Terrance Eugene (Linda) Reichert of New Braunfels, TX, and Scott Darren (Kari) Reichert of New Braunfels, TX; ten grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and a circle of incredible girl friends we refer to as the “Golden Girls, some going back as far as kindergarten and St. Joseph’s grade school yet remaining together as dear, close and comforting friends to this very day over 80 years later.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A memorial visitation will be held from 9-10 a.m. on Saturday, August 3, 2024 at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home in Kankakee. A memorial Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 3, 2024 at St. John Paul II-West Campus. Inurnment will follow at Mt. Calvary. Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. <https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html>

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

2000 E. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

AUG 3. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

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

Memorial Mass

AUG 3. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. John Paul II - West Campus
953 South 9th Avenue
Kankakee, IL 60901

Tribute Wall

JR

“ I have MANY memories of Juanita...she was my sister-in-law. I was blessed to have been married to her brother, Don, for almost 30 years before he passed in 1996. Juanita was the only girl in the Reiniche family and, as children, had to survive her brothers, Marvin, Donald, Francis, and Terrence. They referred to her as the "pampered pooch". Stories were they often played tricks on her; loved especially hiding under her bed and scaring the wits out of her (brothers are that way). Juanita and I would often talk about the boys' antics even recently! Sadly, Juanita was the last surviving child of Harold and Irene and I'll miss those stories. I'm sure she's passed them on to her children and grandchildren. We'll always remember the Reiniche stories of Grandma Irene's red/green colored bread at Christmas; the card games Don and I played with Irene and Harold (Harold made sure I was his partner and knew I loved his cheating at the game...Don and Irene called us on it a few times but all in fun). Some of Juanita's TV shows Jeopardy, Wheel of Fortune, Good Doctor, GMA, and many others. Somehow, I can't watch those now without thinking of her! She'll always be a part of me..tucked inside my heart along with her brother, Don. Finally, Peace, Juanita!

Finally, love and peace to you Garry, Terrence, Scott and Cheryl (and to your babies...you had to know how much she loved her grandchildren and her children..you are the very best part of her life...a life well lived).



Judy Reiniche - June 25, 2024 at 03:33 PM

JD

Juanita was a very dear friend we would have coffee days after we had our children and go to each other's house it was fun and a great morning of good conversations. Later on Juanita , Gene, Paul my hubby and myself played Bridge At each other's house at least twice a month or more lots of fun beating the boys!

Judith Duff - June 25, 2024 at 04:40 PM

MT

“ *Prayers are with the family at this sad, difficult time. May God hold you closely, wipe your tears and may your fond memories fill the hole in your heart and bring smiles.*



Mary Thomson - June 25, 2024 at 12:24 PM