



Mary K. Zopf

March 22, 1939 - December 27, 2013

Mary Katherine Zopf, 74, of Bourbonnais, passed away Friday (Dec. 27, 2013) at the Miller Center in Kankakee, surrounded by family and friends. Visitation will be from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 3, at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, Bourbonnais. A funeral mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 4, at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church in Kankakee. Father Dennis Settles will officiate. Burial will follow at All Saints Cemetery, Bourbonnais. Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Hospice of Kankakee Valley or Newspaper In Education (NIE).

Mary was born March 22, 1939, in Kankakee, the daughter of Lawrence and Helen (Jarvis) Striegel of Exline. Her husband, James L. Zopf, whom she married on Aug. 8, 1964, in Kankakee, preceded her in death on Sept. 9, 1999.

Mary attended St. Patrick High School and later graduated Summa Cum Laude from Alverno College in Milwaukee, Wis., with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She also completed some graduate work at Northwestern University. Mary began her teaching career at Madonna High School in Aurora, as a social studies and English instructor in 1961. Mary went on to teach at Kankakee High School as an English instructor from 1962 to 1966 before moving on to Westview High School from 1967 to 1969. Mary then began her career with Kankakee Community College (KCC) as an Adult Continuing

Education English Instructor in 1974. While at KCC, Mary served in various roles pertaining to adult literacy and continuing education programs at the college and its satellite sites. Mary taught adult education at KCC's Dr. King Education Center South from 1983 to 1999 and served as lead teacher there from 1994 to 1999. Mary retired from KCC in 1999 as Coordinator of Adult Literacy Volunteer Projects. From 2000 to 2008 Mary served as Coordinator of the Newspaper In Education (NIE) program based out of The Daily Journal's Manteno office. Mary represented Adult Education on the Chicago Tribune NIE Advisory Board from 1991 to 1996. She was also a member of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society and an active member of St. Martin of Tours Parish for many years.

Mary loved teaching and had a tremendous passion for adult literacy and continuing education and taught English as a second language to many people in the community. She also enjoyed gardening, bike riding, reading, cooking, theater and spending time with her family and friends. Mary also enjoyed traveling, especially to the Northwoods of Wisconsin and to New York City to visit her daughter. Mary will be remembered for her infectious smile, overwhelming kindness and generosity, and love of people.

Mary is survived by her daughter, Beth Zopf, of New York City; her son, Edward Zopf (Amy Voss), of Limestone; four nephews, Paul (Lisa) Tutt and David (Dawn) Tutt, of Kankakee, Mark (Allyson) Mickelson, of Chantilly, Va., and Guy Mickelson, of Eagle River, Wis.; one niece, Deborah (Thomas) Dougherty, of Eagle River; and 10 beloved great-nieces and great-nephews.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents; infant daughter, Mary Helen Zopf; and stepmother, Thelma (Legg) Striegel.

Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Association - www.alzfdn.org/, Hospice of Kankakee Valley - www.hkvcares.org, or Newspapers in Education (NIE). - nieonline.com

Cemetery Details

All Saints Cemetery

1839 W. Route 102
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 933-2342

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 3. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Mass

JAN 4. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church
953 S. 9th Avenue
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 933-7177

Tribute Wall

LM

“ Beth and Ed, I met Mary at Butterfield where my mother currently resides. She always greeted me with a smile and I shared many days on the porch with Mary, Dorothy and mom. She shared many stories about her love of teaching and her family. You have my deepest sympathy for the loss of your beautiful mom. May God comfort you during this time...Lori McDonough

Lori McDonough - January 09, 2014 at 05:20 PM

GU

“ beth and ed i've been thinking about all the things we would do from the cheese wiz your mom had to have when she was expecting with you to the video ed had at x-mas to all the holidays i your mom and i cooked in the kitchen i will miss her very much all my love and prayers guy

guy - January 09, 2014 at 02:12 PM

KS

“ I worked with Mary in the ALIVE Program at KCC. She was a great supervisor and a wonderful person. I will always remember her kindness and caring personality.
Kathy Styck

Kathy Styck - January 04, 2014 at 03:12 PM

BS

“ Mary touched my life when we were both much younger. I did my student teaching with her my last semester at Olivet in 1964. She was such a great model, but at the same time, she let me make my own decisions even if they were wrong ones. The successful teacher that I became (for 49 years) all started with Mary in the classroom she so lovingly shared with me.

Barbara Stinnett - January 04, 2014 at 12:03 PM

DH

“ I will always be thankful for having known Mary. I taught GED at King Center North while she taught at King Center South. She was a wonderful colleague and friend. We had so much fun together. I treasure these memories. Dldi Hoepfinger

Diana Hoepfinger - January 02, 2014 at 01:47 AM

BP

“ Beulah Pennell lit a candle in memory of Mary K. Zopf



beulah pennell - January 01, 2014 at 07:41 PM

BP

“ My thoughts and prayers are with each of the family members. It was my pleasure to work with Mary at Kankakee Westview High School. She will be missed by everyone who knew her.

beulah pennell - January 01, 2014 at 07:39 PM

MC

“ Mac and I are thinking of Mary's family. She taught Mac English at Westview and was a very favorite teacher....always so kind.

M.J. Cleeland - January 01, 2014 at 12:22 PM

JR

“ Beth and Ed, I am so sorry to hear of your mom's passing. She was an important role model in my life and I will always remember her kind and caring spirit. She loved you both so very much. She and your dad trusted me as your babysitter and during those experiences I learned how to care and love a child. She was gentle, patient and always nurturing. She was my Confirmation sponsor as she was a woman of great faith.

“I know for certain that we never lose the people we love, even to death. They continue to participate in every act, thought and decision we make. Their love leaves an indelible imprint in our memories. We find comfort in knowing that our lives have been enriched by having shared their love.” -(Leo Buscaglia)

May you find comfort in your memories and from the love and support of friends and family. Thinking of you...

Jill (Norgaard) Roberts

Jill Norgaard Roberts - December 31, 2013 at 02:00 PM



“ My heart goes out to you, Beth and Ed!! Your mom was one of the sweetest & loving of all of our moms (room moms) growing up @ St. Martins!! She always made going to your house for sleep-overs, parties and just hanging out such fun in our young growing up years!!! I recall my first Christmas cookie exchange was hosted by your mom @ her home. Another memory was when she had us write & draw our favorite things on butcher paper @ one of your birthday parties. We asked her why she was having us do that & she told us she would save it so that when we were older we could see if we still liked the same things and have a good laugh. I could go on and on about how she touched my life and many of us growing up at St. Martins and Mac!! What I remember most is her warmth and kind spirit she had for everyone she came into contact with!! My thoughts and prayers are with you & your family Beth!! She is remembered with great love!!

Lisa Irle Richmond - December 31, 2013 at 01:43 PM



Love & prayers Beth, Lisa Irle Richmond

Lisa Irle Richmond - December 31, 2013 at 01:44 PM

TC

“ *To Ed & Family~*

Your mom was such a bright spot at St. Martin's and at Mac. So was your dad. We have such fond memories of those days and the tight-knit community we were all a part of...they are both missed by so many but rest assured they both live on in you and your sister.

May God bless your family during this time; our prayers are with you.

The Czerniks- Rebecca, Paula, Phil, & Jon

The Czerniks - December 30, 2013 at 10:08 PM

PZ

“ *Paul and David Tutt...*

When I was a kid, I clearly remember when Mary and Jim were first dating and then later married. It was always fun to see them both when they would stop by and visit "the Tutts" on School Street. Mary was so nice and she always had a smile to share with the neighborhood kids. Years later we bought a house down the street from the Zoph's on Hawthorne Lane. And everytime we greeted one another that same warm, friendly smile would and appear just like the first time we met.

My thoughts, prayers go out to all of you.

Paul Ziemer

WA, state

Paul Ziemer - December 30, 2013 at 09:39 PM

JC

“ Mrs Zopf was such a wonderful teacher. I attended Westview High School and graduated in 1968. She encouraged me to become a teacher also. My deepest sympathy to her family. Jeanne Elayne Coffie, Grand Prairie, Texas.

Jeanne Elayne Coffie - December 30, 2013 at 08:11 PM

CS

“ Mary was the loveliest of women and I was honored to know her. Although it has been awhile since I have seen her in person, just seeing her face in the picture brings a smile to my face. My sincere sympathies.

Cheryl Segneri - December 30, 2013 at 06:17 PM

EB

“ . Your mom was a gracious woman and fun to be around. I cherish the times spent with your father at work and your mom at ISP parties. God bless you all during this difficult time. Ed Bush ISP Retired D-21

Ed Bush - December 30, 2013 at 05:48 PM

PR

“ A wonderful and energetic woman. She always had time fo help others. She was a wonderful parent and friend and teacher. She will be missed by the many she touched. Peace to her family.

Phyllis Roecker

Phyllis Roecker - December 30, 2013 at 12:45 PM



KG

“ *May God grant Mary's family peace at this time. Know that your loved one was beloved in the entire community. Thank you for all the years you shared her with all of us. She was a wonderful lady.*
Sincerely,
Kathie Grazis, formerly of the Daily Journal Photo Dept.

Kathie Grazis - December 30, 2013 at 11:33 AM

MT

“ *Heaven gained a beautiful angel and we lost a wonderful human. May God's peace be with you at this sad time and may many wonderful memories bring smiles again.*



Mary Thomson - December 30, 2013 at 10:59 AM

TT

“ *Beth & Ed.. I want to give you my sympathy for your loss. Mary was a wonderful women and I know you will miss her greatly. I send my love to you at this time. Thinking of you.*

Todd Thoma

todd thoma - December 30, 2013 at 10:49 AM

BJ

“ *Beth & Ed...We want to express our sincere sympathy for the loss of your wonderful mom. She was a fun, energetic, always-positive person. She was my high school English teacher (Barb), generous neighbor, dear friend - who adored the two of you! With love...Barb, Ken & Natalie Johnson*

Barbara Johnson - December 29, 2013 at 01:26 PM

MR

“ *My deepest sympathy, Ed, in the loss of your mother.*

Marilyn Roy

Marilyn Roy - December 28, 2013 at 11:23 PM

LM

Beth and Ed, I met Mary at Butterfield where my mother currently resides. She always greeted me with a smile and I shared many days on the porch with Mary, Dorothy and mom. She shared many stories about her love of teaching and her family. You have my deepest sympathy for the loss of your beautiful mom. May God comfort you during this time...Lori McDonough

Lori McDonough - January 09, 2014 at 05:11 PM