



Dr. Rebecca "Becky" Belcher-Rankin

June 16, 1947 - November 14, 2021

Dr. Rebecca "Becky" Belcher-Rankin, age 74, of Kankakee passed away Sunday, November 14, 2021 at her home. She was born June 16, 1947 in Winchester, IN, the daughter of Merl J. & Elizabeth M. (Hartman) Harshman. Becky married Jim Rankin on July 28, 2007 along the Kankakee River. Becky graduated from Union City Community High School in Indiana. She received her Bachelor's degree from Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, her Master's degree from the University of Kansas, and her Doctorate of Arts Degree from Middle Tennessee State University. She was a Professor of English/Literature at Olivet Nazarene University, retiring in 2019. Before that, she taught in high schools and colleges in Dayton, OH; Kansas City, MO; Decatur, GA; Martin, TN; and Nashville, TN; where she taught the longest.

Becky enjoyed reading, gardening, writing, and traveling. She was an active member of the College Church of the Nazarene University Avenue, where she served as Mission Council President and a church board member.

Surviving are her husband, Jim Rankin of Kankakee; three sons, Jonathan (Carrie Boone) Belcher of Louisville, KY, David (Jodi Anglin) Belcher of Durham, NC, and Geoffrey Belcher of Kankakee; two step-daughters, Jenna (Brett) Dersien of St. Anne and Jill (Nate) Betts of Vienna; ten grandchildren; one sister, Ramona (Harshman) Hollinger of Union City; and several nieces and nephews. Becky was preceded in death by her parents; one brother, William Harshman; and one sister, Judith I. (Harshman) Odom.

Visitation will be held from 4-7 p.m. Friday, November 19, 2021 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais. An additional visitation will be held from 12 p.m. until the time of the 1 p.m. funeral service on Saturday, November 20, 2021 at College Church of the Nazarene in Bourbonnais. Dr. Mark Quanstrum will officiate the service. Burial will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday, November 21, 2021 at Lisbon Cemetery, north of Union City, IN. Memorials may be made to the College Church of the Nazarene University Avenue Mission Works.

Cemetery Details

Lisbon Cemetery

E 550 North and N 800 East
Union City, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **19**. 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

Visitation

NOV **20**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

College Church of the Nazarene
200 University Ave.
Bourbonnais, IL
(815) 933-7749
<http://www.collegechurch.org/>

Funeral Service

NOV **20**. 1:00 PM (CT)

College Church of the Nazarene
200 University Ave.
Bourbonnais, IL
(815) 933-7749
<http://www.collegechurch.org/>

Burial

NOV **21**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Lisbon Cemetery
E 550 North and N 800 East
Union City, IN

Tribute Wall

SS

“*Though she be but little she is fierce*” (Shakespeare, *Midsummer Night's Dream*).

While Rebecca was often the shortest person in the room, she was one of the easiest to locate. If I could not find her from her glorious silver shock of hair, I needed only to wait long enough to hear her laugh. My favorite stories of Rebecca always include food, wonderful conversation--and laughter. (I can hear her laugh even as I type this.)

As her colleague, I can say nothing that wasn't true of her in every circle of her life. Rebecca was giving and generous, intelligent and kind. She gave you her whole attention and seemed to know a little bit about everything. She took joy in everything--books and Burkina Faso, foods she'd never tried, anecdotes of her sons and grandkids--and she shared that joy with others. Best of all, she had a generous spirit, whether with people in need or students learning or friends who wanted shoulders to cry on. And she gave more of herself (gladly, easily) than the person on the receiving end could ever give back.

I met Rebecca through our shared love of English. We were friends through Sigma Tau Delta at the national level and then through grading for the AP Literature exams. But through her stories and the vast network of friends and students and family who always eagerly sought her out, I feel connected to those of you who were closer to her, who mourn her now. She loved her family, her friends, her students and colleagues--and she loved us fiercely.

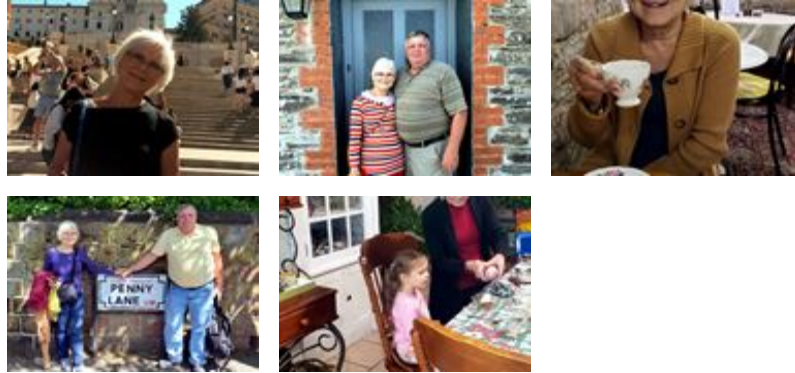
Let light perpetual shine upon Rebecca, now and always.



Shannin Schroeder - November 18, 2021 at 11:08 AM



“ 100 files added to the album LifeTributes



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - November 17, 2021 at 03:53 PM

MB

I am Becky's oldest niece. I have so many memories of Aunt Becky. She was only 10 yrs older than me. I remember staying overnight at Grandma's and Grandpa's and staying up late with Aunt Becky to watch scary movies.

I remember the first boyfriend she brought home from college. But one of my favorite memories was after she moved to Dayton Ohio to begin teaching. She had just gotten her 1968 metallic teal fastback mustang. I got to go to Dayton stayed overnite with her AND got to ride in that car!! To a 13 yr old girl that was huge. My Aunt has always cared very deeply for her family and everyone she considered a friend. She will be very much missed. I love you Aunt Becky thanks for the great memories of being my favorite Aunt.

Melody Baldwin - November 18, 2021 at 09:24 AM



“ There was never a time I did not know Aunt Becky. She was my youngest Aunt, just 12 years older than me. My Dad and Mom lived next door to my Mom's parents and so the door was always open to my siblings and I. I know I drove Aunt Becky crazy as a 5-6 year old nephew while she was a serious Junior-Senior in high school. But she was more like an extra older sister than an aunt and I treated her as such while she was certainly more patient with me than she should have been. But there certainly were fun times! I remember Aunt Becky popping jiffy-pop popcorn and making pepsi-vanilla ice cream floats for my sister Melody and I when we stayed overnight with our grandparents. Those were always great stay-overs. During her college years Aunt Becky went on mission trips and always brought each niece and nephew a gift from the country she had visited. She continued this into our adulthood and I still have those gifts. Of course Aunt Becky would correct my grammar when she was home from college, "Scott, do not use ain't!", and I took her seriously on her corrections. Throughout my life I just enjoyed spending time with Aunt Becky when I could. She was a good listener and of course a great storyteller with an infectious laugh and ability to deliver a punch line with great timing. I could write much, much more but all I can say is I love Aunt Becky and will treasure every memory I have of her.



Scott Hollinger - November 17, 2021 at 03:14 PM

KS

“ *Kathy Sullivan lit a candle in memory of Dr. Rebecca "Becky" Belcher-Rankin*



Kathy Sullivan - November 17, 2021 at 11:43 AM

SH

“ *I was fortunate to get to know my neighbors both Becky and Jim just recently in the 2020 year. The most endearing memory of Becky was her love of hanging washed laundry outside on the clothes line to dry in the sun and breezes and our conversation of the wonderful smell. Many condolences to Jim and all who loved her.*

Susan Henke - November 17, 2021 at 07:38 AM

GS

“ *Marla and I are greatly saddened by the news of Becky's death. She had planned for lots of living beyond her teaching days at ONU. Becky was a fine human being who met several major life challenges with good sense, grace, and admirable grit. Dr. Belcher had a keen mind, strong intellectual curiosity, and a winsome smile — a winning combination for any college professor! We mourn at this news of our colleague/friend's passing and wish for her family God's presence to be felt during this time of loss.*

*Fondly,
Marla and Gary Streit*

Gary Streit - November 16, 2021 at 06:46 PM