



Sandra J. "Sandi" Bell Sowell

November 25, 1946 - June 11, 2022

Sandra J. "Sandi" Bell Sowell, age 75, of Kankakee passed away Saturday, June 11, 2022 at Aperion Care in Bradley. She was born November 25, 1946 in Villa Ridge, the daughter of Carter & Britha (Williams) Bell. Sandi married Robert Sowell on April 10, 1971 in Gilman.

Sandi was a schoolteacher. She had taught at St. Anne High School for 39 years. Sandi coached track, basketball, and cheerleading. She enjoyed reading, doing puzzles, mowing her lawn, and going to casinos. Sandi loved to travel and lived her life to the fullest.

She was a parishioner of St. John Paul II Catholic Church where she had also taught RCIA.

Surviving are her husband of 51 years, Robert Sowell of Kankakee; two daughters, Sharron Sowell and Roberta Sowell, both of Kankakee; one brother, Fredrick Bell of Kankakee; four grandchildren, Robert A. Sowell, Nicolas Sowell, Karter Jackson, and Maliya Jackson; and a host of nieces and nephews. Sandi is preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Birdie Ann Smith, Patricia Wicks, and Charlotte Winfield; and brothers, Carter Bell Jr., Charles Bell, Lloyd Bell, William Bell, and Ronald Bell.

Visitation will be held from 4-8 p.m. on Friday, June 17, 2022 at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home in Kankakee. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 18, 2022 at St. John Paul II-West Campus. Interment will follow at Mound Grove Gardens in Kankakee.

Memorials may be made to the family wishes.

Cemetery Details

Mound Grove Gardens Cemetery

1000 N. Greenwood
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 933-6726

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 17. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Mass

JUN 18. 10:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

VT

“ *Sandra and Robert were my good friends at Knoxville College. Rest in Peace, Sandi.* ”



Vincent B. Talbot - March 04, 2025 at 04:53 PM

JS

“ *Rest well Aunt Sand.* ”

Jacqueline Smith - February 22, 2023 at 10:09 PM

JS

“ *Jacqueline Smith lit a candle in memory of Sandra J. "Sandi" Bell Sowell* ”



Jacqueline Smith - February 22, 2023 at 10:07 PM

CY

“ *Cynthia York-Camden lit a candle in memory of Sandra J. "Sandi" Bell Sowell* ”



Cynthia York-Camden - October 26, 2022 at 05:25 PM

CY

“ Cynthia & Brian Y. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Sandra J. "Sandi" Bell Sowell.



Cynthia & Brian Y. - October 26, 2022 at 05:23 PM

CY

“ Sandy was a very old friend that I had not seen in a long time. She taught me so much. I am so sad to hear that she has passed away and feel sympathy for her family. She was a very special person. I was wanting to reach out to let her know that my folks had passed. Praying for peace of us all. Thank you. Cynthia (Cindy) York-Camden daughter of Byron and Sue York.

Cynthia York-Camden - October 26, 2022 at 05:05 PM

GW

“ Mrs. Sowell was my cheerleader coach. She was a blast to be around. We had so much fun. I was very sad to hear of her passing but she done what we all have to do. She was a good friend to my mom who was one of the cooks at St. Anne High School. She was very well liked by many. RIP SANDY BELL SOWELL till we meet up again.



Georgia Guider Sledge Warren - July 04, 2022 at 06:43 PM

TN

“ Bob and family, I'm so sorry to hear of Sandra's passing. May God be with you.

Timothy Nelson

Timothy Nelson - June 18, 2022 at 10:22 AM

CB

“ Even though there is joy in the homegoing, there is sorrow in your loss. Thinking of the Sowell family at this tender time.”

RIP Mrs Sowell

Chena Watkins Baity

Chena Baity - June 17, 2022 at 05:55 PM

CB

“ Chena Baity lit a candle in memory of Sandra J. "Sandi" Bell Sowell



Chena Baity - June 17, 2022 at 05:51 PM

MI

“ Saddened to hear of Sandra Sowell's passing. She was one of my favorite teachers during my time at St. Anne HS... always welcoming and encouraging, positive and motivating. She had a way of making the learning experience challenging, but fun. Though I haven't seen or spoken to her in many years, I'll always have fond memories of Mrs. Sowell. Rest in Christ, my teacher.

Mark Ingram - June 17, 2022 at 08:08 AM

KV

“ *Heaven hugs Mrs. Sowell, you were a great teacher and wonderful person* ❤️💛



Kris Varboncouer - June 17, 2022 at 12:16 AM

SC

“ *My favorite teacher at St. Anne High School, Donald and I would fuss so much, she would call me the rose and him the thorn, that's one of my special memories of her. Rest on Mrs. Sowell in Peace* 🙏



shelly Covington - June 16, 2022 at 11:38 PM

DW

“ *One of St. Anne High School's best teachers. Rest on Mrs. Sowell.*



Dana Washington - June 16, 2022 at 08:20 PM

CW

“ *Cheryl Wilson lit a candle in memory of Sandra J. "Sandi" Bell Sowell*



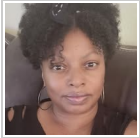
Cheryl Wilson - June 16, 2022 at 07:16 PM

KN

“ Great Teacher! RIP Sandra 🙏

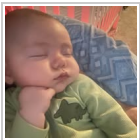


Keith Nicholson - June 14, 2022 at 10:48 PM



“ When I was in high school I refused to work in most of my classes. I would fall asleep and teachers wouldn't say anything. When I got to Mrs. Sowell civic class falling asleep was not an option. Not working was not an option. Being late was not an option the cost for that was a bag of Okedoke popcorn. I never had a doubt that Mrs Sowell cared a great deal for her students. I loved her. She is not present in body but always in spirit. She will never be forgotten.

La Nita Glass - June 14, 2022 at 09:18 PM



“ The best teacher I ever had at SACHS. She gave me my love of history and civics. My prayers and sympathies to all of her family. RIP Mrs. Sowell and know that for as much of your heart you gave to all of your students a piece of ours died with you.

Tammy Thomas - June 14, 2022 at 04:03 PM

DB

“ Donita Brace Buhler lit a candle in memory of Sandra J. "Sandi" Bell Sowell



Donita Brace Buhler - June 14, 2022 at 03:36 PM

DB

“ Mrs. Sowell you were the best teacher and friend. You will be missed by many. Donita Brace Buhler #classof83

Donita Brace Buhler - June 14, 2022 at 03:35 PM

KC

“ This wonderful lady shared the title of my second Mom as she was to so many of the students at St. Anne High School. She was the true example of an EXCELLENT teacher who wore that title proudly and far beyond the required 8 hours within those 4 walls. She will be missed, but what she put into so many will live on forever.

Ken Crite - June 14, 2022 at 03:25 PM

TW

“ I'm going to miss Mrs Sowell she not only was one of my favorite teachers but I kept the friendship with her even after graduating & into my adulthood. She was a wonderful & caring person she was one of the teachers that actually cared about her students, prayers to her family

Tammy Menard Weedon - June 14, 2022 at 01:58 PM

DP

“ God bless you...



Donna Fox Price - June 14, 2022 at 01:52 PM

DP

“ Prayers go out to the entire family! Mrs Sowell was so much more than a teacher at SACHS... She was a Mother, Friend, Role Model and the best disciplinarian EVER! I respected her because of her love and discipline. I'm blessed to have been loved by her!! RIP Mama Sowell... you will be in my heart until we see each other again!

Donna Fox Price - June 14, 2022 at 01:51 PM

AF

“ Mrs. Sowell was one of the best teachers that ever taught at St. Anne High School. One thing that was for sure is that she was definitely going to challenge you. She is the reason I became a better writer and was able to do so well in college. I can remember in 2016 when I worked at Woodforest Bank in Bourbonnais as the Assistant Branch Manager, she spotted me working and came by to say hello. She told me that she was so proud of me. She may be gone but she will never be forgotten. RIP

Angelia Frazier-Patterson - June 14, 2022 at 11:34 AM

CW

“ Christopher Wilcox lit a candle in memory of Sandra J. "Sandi" Bell Sowell



Christopher Wilcox - June 14, 2022 at 11:27 AM

DD

“ *Bob and Family,*

She was always at the games and was loved by all. We are so sorry for your loss and continued prayers during this hard time.

The Deprest Family

Debbie Deprest - June 14, 2022 at 10:56 AM

CI

“ *Nothing but fond memories of Mrs. Sowell. I knew her when she was Miss Bell at St. Anne and then when the girls were in sports with my girls in the parochial schools. You are in my prayers.*

Cindy - June 14, 2022 at 10:48 AM



“ *I remember the time I was out of school for three weeks because my dad was in the hospital. Her and Mrs. Taylor stopped on the way to school to check on me because they were concerned. That really touched me.*

Mary Koselke - June 14, 2022 at 10:41 AM

EH

“ *Eric Hibbler lit a candle in memory of Sandra J. "Sandi" Bell Sowell*



Eric Hibbler - June 14, 2022 at 10:27 AM

TT

“ I am so sad to hear of this. Mrs. Sowell was a great teacher, mentor, and friend. She loved all her students with all her heart, soul, and might. She will be missed. Prayers for all of you. C/O '92

Teresa Telford - June 14, 2022 at 09:53 AM

TS

“ Sandi will be greatly missed! She was such a loving person! God Bless all of you!

Therese & Rich Schultz - June 14, 2022 at 08:06 AM

WA

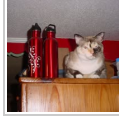
“ Bob, my sincere sympathy to you and your family.
Walt Andrews
SACHS Class of 1972

Walt Andrews - June 14, 2022 at 07:48 AM

TF

“ I will always remember that day almost our entire class needed to move up closer to take notes from the chalk board, she made it clear that would be the last day we could move up closer, she was straight forward and told us we needed to go home and tell our parents we needed glasses, or we would fail her class that goes show she was concerned and passionate about her students and from 1985 to this day I still wear 🕶️👓👁️ glasses thank you ❤️🙏🙏
🙏🙏 we love you Mrs. Sowell you will be missed you were the best teacher ever💖 SACHS alumni's class of 1986

Tracey Fisher - June 14, 2022 at 03:21 AM



I remember that. The Lions bought my first pair of glasses because of her concern. She was the best teacher. The world has lost a wonderful person. SACHS alumni's class of 1986.

Mary Koselke - June 14, 2022 at 10:38 AM

TF

“ *A beautiful butterfly spread your wings you are missed and loved by many*



Tracey Fisher - June 14, 2022 at 02:56 AM

TF

“ *SACHS class of 1986*



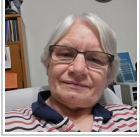
Tracey Fisher - June 14, 2022 at 02:52 AM

TF

“ *Tracey Fisher lit a candle in memory of Sandra J. "Sandi" Bell Sowell*



Tracey Fisher - June 14, 2022 at 02:50 AM



“ *My sincere condolences to the family. She was a wonderful lady. May she be RIP.*



Beverly Cranston - June 14, 2022 at 12:05 AM

GW

“ *Georgia Warren lit a candle in memory of Sandra J. "Sandi" Bell Sowell*



Georgia Warren - June 13, 2022 at 11:59 PM

GW

“ *I am deeply sad hearing the news of Mrs. Sowell's passing. I had the pleasure of being a cheerleader at St. Anne High School where she was over us. She was so much fun to be around with and taught and instructed us well. Sending my deepest condolences to family and friends. RIP*

Georgia Warren - June 13, 2022 at 11:57 PM

JH

Mrs Sowell was a down to earth educator. She was my Afro American history teacher. She's loved by many people. RIP

Jonathan Hunt - June 14, 2022 at 01:14 AM

SS

“ *Sally Schell lit a candle in memory of Sandra J. "Sandi" Bell Sowell*



sally schell - June 13, 2022 at 11:56 PM

SS

I am so sorry My Condolences to you and family . <3

sally schell - June 13, 2022 at 11:58 PM

BC

“ *Bill And Debbie Corum lit a candle in memory of Sandra J. "Sandi" Bell Sowell*



Bill and Debbie Corum - June 13, 2022 at 10:55 PM

DC

I will always remember when I first talked to Sandi it was at Out on the Limb. I seen her a few times sitting at a table reading a book while everyone was taking turns singing. I thought how strange. Then we finally got introduced and from that first time it was like we knew each other forever. Prayers and hugs Bob and family.

Debbie Corum - June 14, 2022 at 10:28 AM

MB

“ *Mary Blum lit a candle in memory of Sandra J. "Sandi" Bell Sowell*



Mary Blum - June 13, 2022 at 09:47 PM