



## Wanda Marie Cantrell

October 26, 1954 - May 13, 2021

Wanda Marie Cantrell, age 66, of Kankakee passed from this world on Thursday, May 13, 2021 following a short illness. She was born October 26, 1954 in Kankakee, the daughter of James W. & Patricia Ann (Darrough) Gibson. She was a life-long resident of the community. Wanda married her partner for life, William H. Cantrell.

Wanda was a 1972 graduate of Eastridge High School in Kankakee. Early in Wanda's life she developed a strong interest in politics and became deeply involved. She was among the first women to be a department head in the City of Kankakee. Wanda had also worked for the Kankakee County Clerk's office and was later elected as a Kankakee Township Official. She became the first woman to hold the title of Chairman of the Kankakee Republican Central Committee. Wanda had a great love for her community and country. She continued to be a presence and mentor to many that followed, during her retirement. She was a member of the Kankakee Republican party.

Wanda enjoyed cooking and gardening.

Surviving are her husband of 45 wonderful years, William Cantrell of Kankakee; one son and daughter-in-law, James W. & Kate (Pate) Cantrell of Kankakee; two granddaughters, Lily and Eden; three stepsons, Michael L. & Jennifer Cantrell of NC, Herbert A. & Christie Cantrell of Bradley, and Gregory W. & Lori (Benjamin) Cantrell of Bourbonnais; many step-grandchildren; and many step-great-grandchildren.

Private family services will be held.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Arrangements by Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home in Kankakee.

# Tribute Wall

LC

“ *I miss you every day.  
Losing you has been the hardest thing I've dealt with in my life.  
There's a hole in my heart without you here.  
You are so so so missed.  
Forever and always my Nana.*

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**Lily Cantrell** - May 10, 2022 at 12:20 PM

TP

“ *I still can't believe you're gone. It's been 2 months but feels like years. I miss you every day. My heart is broken for your family. You were my friend before politics. My mentor during politics. I'll miss you until we're together in heaven. Until then. Love you.*

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**Tinker Parker** - July 11, 2021 at 05:06 PM

VD

“ *Virginia R Dominick lit a candle in memory of  
Wanda Marie Cantrell*



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**Virginia R Dominick** - May 20, 2021 at 12:54 PM

DF

“ *Bill very sorry for your loss. My prayer is for healing and comfort during this time..*

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**Donald Freigo** - May 20, 2021 at 08:33 AM

TE

“ *She was a friend and a mentor. Nobody worked harder or smarter in Kankakee politics. We spent countless hours doing mailings, walking and talking politics, life and how much she loved her family. There’s a void in my life with her gone. Rest peacefully Wanda.*

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**Tim Etzel** - May 19, 2021 at 07:55 PM



“ *Bob Schneider lit a candle in memory of Wanda Marie Cantrell*



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**Bob Schneider** - May 19, 2021 at 06:50 PM

VI

“ *Our condolences in your loss. Wanda was a classmate, in Young Republicans with me, and friend. She always had a warmwelcoming smile. She will be missed by all who knew her. Mike and VickilynnCosta (Fox) Costa*

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**VickilynnCosta** - May 19, 2021 at 11:38 AM

RR

“ *My condolences to Wanda's family, especially her husband, Bill Cantrell with whom I worked with on the Kankakee Police Department. Wanda was certainly a 'Presence' in Kankakee City Hall,, and left no doubt in one's mind as to where she stood on things, Bill was one of the "Good Guys" on the Department, and we shared an experience being thrown through the plate glass windows of the "Log Cabin Tavern" on South East Ave. Those were the days!!! Your family is fondly thought of.*

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**Ronald J. Riml** - May 19, 2021 at 10:29 AM

VS

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you Bill and your family!! 🙏🙏

vckie Stroo - May 19, 2021 at 12:38 AM

DS

“ Wanda was as my mentor in politics and many aspects of life in general. She always told it the way it was and never sugar coated anything. More than life itself, she loved and talked about her family. May she rest in peace.

Darrel L Smith - May 18, 2021 at 07:43 PM

MG

“ So sorry to hear this. Wanda and her parents lived on the same block as my family when we were kids. My condolences to Wandas' family.

Marilyn Green - May 18, 2021 at 04:43 PM

WH

“ I went to school with Wanda. She had a great sense of humor. When we were in the same class and a teacher called her name she pretended to not know which Wanda (she or I) he was calling on. My condolences to her family.

Wanda Hendricks - May 18, 2021 at 04:19 PM

DW

“ My condolences to the family. I had the privilege of working with Wanda in the County Clerks office. She was a good friend and was never afraid to speak the truth. Wanda loved to share how much Bill and her family meant to her. She will be missed.

Donna Woolard - May 18, 2021 at 02:30 PM

LC

“ Deepest sympathy to the Cantrell family. Wanda was a dedicated servant to the Kankakee township and republican party. She will truly be missed.

Linda Chouinard - May 18, 2021 at 01:21 PM

DW

“ Rest in peace Wanda... you'll be missed!!! As Gary Chouinard always said, "Wanda is the glue that holds us all together" - Dave West

Dave West - May 18, 2021 at 11:33 AM

BB

“ So many fun memories with Wanda and Jim over the years. She was definitely a second mom to a lot of us and we are all better off for having her bless our lives. Love you guys!

Bill Belluso - May 18, 2021 at 07:30 AM

DM

“ So sorry to hear this. I met Wanda through politics and loved her honesty and sense of humor. My condolences to her family.

Debbie Militello - May 18, 2021 at 04:53 AM

LS

“ My sincere loss of Wanda for Bill and the family. Wanda was truly a love and caring person to so very people and will be missed by so very many people and friends...

lynn c sheehan - May 17, 2021 at 02:30 PM