



KATHLEEN E. PETERSON

April 25, 1946 - July 21, 2020

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS MEMORIAL DONATIONS MAY BE MADE IN
KATHLEEN'S NAME TO:

DEPARTMENT FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
P.O. BOX 2539
1 CATHOLIC CHARITIES WAY
OAK RIDGE, NJ 07438

VISITATION:

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2020

3PM TO 7PM

STICKLE-SOLTESZ FUNERAL HOME

FUNERAL MASS:

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2020

10AM

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE RC CHURCH

5635 BERKSHIRE VALLEY ROAD

OAK RIDGE, NJ 07438

INTERMENT:

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2020

FOLLOWING FUNERAL MASS

NORTH HARDYSTON CEMETERY
ROUTE 94 (NORTH CHURCH ROAD)
HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP, NJ

Kathleen E. Peterson, 74 years of age, of Sparta, NJ., formerly of Highland Lakes, NJ., passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family and friends.

Born on April 25, 1946 in Brooklyn, NY to the late Margaret (nee Monahan) and the late John Ryan.

She attended Rev. George A. Brown Memorial Elementary School and Our Lady of the Lake High School, both in Sparta, NJ. Graduating from high school in 1964 she was the last class before the school changed its name to Pope John High School.

Graduating in 1968 from Cabrini College she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Education and later received the Legacy Award from Cabrini College. Her 44 year teaching career began at the Walnut Ridge Elementary School in Vernon Twp., NJ. earning her the Teacher of the Year and the Governor's Teacher Recognition Award.

Kathleen was a Charter Member and Executive Committee Member of the Vernon Twp. Education Association.

An active parishioner of more than 25 years at St. Thomas the Apostle RC Church in Oak Ridge, NJ, she served for 15 years as a Eucharistic Minister, a Lector for 25 years and a member of the Cleaning Crew for 10 years.

Kathleen was a proud supporter and volunteer for 50 years for the Department for Persons with Disabilities, receiving their Lifetime Achievement

Award, their Marilyn Murray Keenan Inspiration Award in 2018, and the Vivere Christus award from the Diocese of Paterson.

Kathleen was a kind and generous woman with a heart of gold. Anyone in need always knew they could reach out to her and she would respond immediately and wholeheartedly. Her faith, her family and friends, and her profession were her guiding light. She touched so many lives that this world has truly lost an angel on earth.

Kathleen was predeceased by her beloved husband Robert Peterson in 1999, her brother-in-law Pucci Zanotti in 1998, her mother Margaret in 1973 and her father Jack 1988.

She is survived by her loving sister Mary Ryan Zanotti of Oak Ridge, NJ as well as many very close and dear friends.

The family will receive visitors on Thursday, July 23, 2020 from 3pm to 7pm at the Stickle-Soltész Funeral Home, 187 La Rue Road, Newfoundland, NJ 07435 (for GPS use 1 Post Place).

The funeral mass will take place on Friday, July 24, 2020 at 10am at St. Thomas the Apostle RC Church, 5635 Berkshire Valley Road, Oak Ridge, NJ 07438.

Following the funeral mass Kathleen will be interred beside her husband at North Hardyston Cemetery in Hardyston Twp., NJ.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in Kathleen's name to: Department for Persons with Disabilities, P.O. Box 2539, 1 Catholic Charities Way, Oak Ridge, NJ 07438.

Log onto www.sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com tribute wall to personally post your condolences, memories, photos, and videos, as well as driving directions to the funeral home.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **23.** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Stickle-Soltesz Funeral Home
187 La Rue Road
(Parallel to Route 23 North between Clinton Road and Union Valley Road)
Newfoundland, NJ 07435
(973) 697-6700
info@sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com
<https://www.sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Mass

JUL **24.** 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (ET)

St. Thomas the Apostle RC Church
5635 Berkshire Valley Road
Oak Ridge, NJ 07438
(973) 208-0090

Interment

JUL **24.** 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (ET)

North Hardyston Cemetery
North Church Road
Hardyston Township, NJ

Tribute Wall

AG

“*“Miss Ryan” was my son's very favorite teacher throughout his 12 yrs. of education in Vernon. She was his 3rd grade teacher and I DO think he was her favorite (at least that's how she made us feel) It was the year she put on the play "The Wizard of Oz". My son Danny played the Lion and got a standing ovation. Danny sent a ROSE to Miss Ryan every single year on Valentine's Day. Even when he was in High School....Mrs. Peterson would find a red rose on her desk.....every year without fail. My son Daniel Forrester passed away in 2001 from Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. Kathy came to the funeral home and I remembered her immediately. She came to his funeral Mass at Immaculate Conception RC Church. AND NOW THEY MEET AGAIN IN HEAVEN..... (sigh).....My deepest most heartfelt sympathy to Kathy's family. If at all possible, could someone send me a Holy Card from the funeral. I only found out today of her passing.*

*Arlene Gundersen
33 Woodland Dr.
Vernon, N.J. 07462*

Arlene Gundersen - August 15, 2020 at 08:31 PM



“*Walter Endlicher lit a candle in memory of
KATHLEEN E. PETERSON*



Walter Endlicher - July 30, 2020 at 08:51 PM

KF

“ I had the privilege of having Kathleen as my teacher in Walnut Ridge and then as my colleague when I got a job teaching at WR. The one memory I have of her as my teacher was when she was correcting my math problems, she'd use a toy car and wheel it across the page checking each problem row by row as she "drove by". As a colleague, she was just wonderful in all aspects! She took me under her arm and showed me the way! My oldest daughter had Kathleen as her french teacher in WR and remembers the puppets teaching her french!! What talent!!!
So sorry, Mary. You're in my thoughts and prayers.
Kim (Wasserman) Fishman

Kim Fishman - July 28, 2020 at 06:50 PM

JW

“ So sorry to hear to hear of Kathy's passing...will always cherish all my experiences teaching alongside of her through the many years in the Vernon Township Board of Ed...we shared so many wonderful experiences together.. as teachers...as members of NJEA and as friends... and even though we haven't been in contact,I truly laugh and cherish at the memories of our many "ETHEL and LUCY" moments!!!!...She leaves me with this wonderful legacy and wide range of life experiences. Joann Whalen

JOANN WHALEN - July 26, 2020 at 01:41 PM

CB

“ Kathleen was a wonderful educator and friend. I have had so many laughs, conversations ,and teaching tips with and from her. She is truly an inspiration with a kind heart just like her Dad. I am glad to have worked with her at Walnut Ridge and I truly will miss her. Her family will be in my thoughts and prayers.
Love
Christine and Ray Bross

Christine Bross - July 24, 2020 at 09:55 PM

M(

“ Rest in peace, Mrs. Peterson. Of all the teachers I've ever had, you were the kindest and most compassionate toward me. I have never forgotten the times you sat with me to talk about my feelings and fears when my grandmother was in the hospital, and I didn't want to go to school. I still have the Minnie Mouse ornament you gave me that year for Christmas. You made so much more of an impact on my life than you probably realize, and I was lucky to have you as my first grade teacher. With love and immense appreciation, Michelle Shanahan (Wiese)



Michelle Shanahan (Wiese) - July 24, 2020 at 10:56 AM

RR

“ Always remember her lovely smile and greeting as we sat in church. She will be missed. I She was a wonderful, generous and loving person.
Matt and Rita Rugel

rita rugel - July 24, 2020 at 09:01 AM

CD

“ Mary,
Just heard this morning. My heartfelt condolences. I was so impressed with what a wonderful person and teacher Kathleen was. My prayers are with you. Carol Debiec



Carol Debiec - July 24, 2020 at 08:12 AM

JB

“ *She touched our lives in many ways! The best travel companion, listener, audience member, and very good friend! She will be in our hearts forever! Love, John & Robert*

John R Buzzell - July 23, 2020 at 05:22 PM

SB

“ *Kathleen was my mentor when I was a fledgling teacher in Vernon. I knew that I could count on her to help me with any issues, not only as a teacher but as a active member of the Vernon Twp Education Association. She was a wonderful individual, providing calm, intelligent perspective uneven the most volatile situations. I consider it an honor to have known her and was so sorry to hear of her passing. The world has lost a very special person. Sally Barkand*

Sally Barkand - July 23, 2020 at 03:39 PM

LN

“ *Kathleen was my mentor, Co-teacher and friend. She loved teaching and impacted so many lives including mine. I will never forget her generous spirit or ability to tell a great story. Rest In Peace, my dear friend.*

Laurie Nelson - July 23, 2020 at 03:20 PM

PM

“ *On behalf of Cabrini University, we are saddened to hear of Kathleen's passing, but so very grateful for the life she shared with so many, especially in her classrooms. On a personal note, I'll cherish meeting her and hearing some of the stories of children she influenced. To her sister, Mary, please know you're in my prayers as well.*

Peter Manetas - July 23, 2020 at 02:33 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of KATHLEEN E. PETERSON.



July 23, 2020 at 02:20 PM



“ Kathleen was a beautiful person and friend. Loved working with her at Walnut Ridge and socializing after school. We will always have Many fond memories.....and Mary you are in our Thoughts & Prayers!! Love, Fran & Fred Marklin

Fran Marklin - July 23, 2020 at 01:04 PM



“ I think of Kathleen's marvelous way to have anyone smile no matter what the circumstances were. God blessed her with a ready smile and great humor.
Heaven is going to be happy to have her around! Our sincerest sympathy to Mary and the family. Love and hugs, Faye & Doug Crum

Faye Crum - July 23, 2020 at 12:23 PM



“ She was one of my favorite teachers ever. I loved her puppets and sound-and-blend competitions. She also used to push students in wheelchairs around at recess pretending to be a race car, and we would all follow behind her in a little parade. I think of her and her big heart so often, and 1st grade was a long time ago. What a wonderful human being.

Sabrina Moran Little - July 23, 2020 at 12:20 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of KATHLEEN E. PETERSON.*



July 23, 2020 at 08:01 AM



“ *Mrs.Peterson was my first grade teacher in Vernon school district. I was somewhat of a trouble student, I didn't act out in class but at home and she helped me through the death of my uncle right after the school year started. Mrs.Peterson made me embrace my love of reading, I remember she had these puppets three or four racks of them In her class room that she used to get us to read with. Every time we read a book to her she would make a note in our reading log and after so many marks we got to take home a certain puppet of our choosing during the weekend. She had all sorts of puppets my favorites were always the dogs to take home. She has made a everlasting impression on my life and I will dearly miss her as if she was one of my family members*



Ashleigh Lambert - July 23, 2020 at 12:33 AM

JW

“ So very sorry to hear about Kathy. My mother enjoyed her days at Walnut Ridge with Kathy and my dad enjoyed talking yankee baseball with her. She was a great teacher and all around good person. She will be missed by all. Sincerely, The Wright's, Judy, Sonny, Judy, Michael and Donna.



Judy wright - July 22, 2020 at 10:09 PM

CB

“ Kathleen was my 3rd grade teacher at Walnut Ridge and from when I was in kindergarten in, I would be sent to her class for math. She basically kept me going so to speak during an extremely turbulent period of time in my life. She was such a fabulous teacher and person and knowing how much she meant to me, presented me with a teachers scholarship in 1987, not having seen or pretty much heard from me in 9 years. She was the best teacher I had and I am completely devastated at the loss of her. RIP

Cary Begraft - July 22, 2020 at 09:34 PM

SM

“ Mary,
We are so glad to have had our time and memories with you and Kathleen. The Diamond Lounge Gang will surely miss her. Please know that you both are loved. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Plus, hugs and kisses.
With love,
Steve & Judy McNeely

Steve & Judy McNeely - July 22, 2020 at 08:40 PM



“ Steve & Judy McNeely sent a virtual gift in memory of **KATHLEEN E. PETERSON**



Steve & Judy McNeely - July 22, 2020 at 08:33 PM



“ Kathy Petersen was one of the very best Vernon Schools has ever had to offer! My condolences to her family. She will always be remembered for her greatness.

Jessi Paladini - July 22, 2020 at 06:07 PM



“ Kathleen was a beautiful person. She inspired me with her love of God in Scripture and the Eucharist. She will be remembered with true fondness.

Catherine Martin - July 22, 2020 at 05:18 PM

GI

“ Kathleen was and remains so special. We know she was a really great, dedicated, teacher; it was her true calling. Loyal to her colleagues, and her profession, and loved Walnut Ridge School and her students Kathleen had a most remarkable sense of wit and humor. She was a wonder of a story teller. Her love for her dad Jack, and for her dear sister Mary was clear, consistent, and so truly lovely. But all hat many of us know, to me she was a true, caring, dependable friend. I cannot really explain or describe that friendship. I loved her candor, her beliefs, her genuine warmth for children and friends. She was dedicated to strong spiritual beliefs and truly understood the concept of goodness, and why charity and goodness are really the best elements of life. Her friendship was truly a gift to me, and it will valued and treasured throughout my time. There is much more to say, we shared a mutual sense off respect and affection. For me she will be remembered day by day "at the rising up and setting of the sun"

George Iannacone

george iannacone - July 22, 2020 at 12:56 PM

FS

“ From Janice Fitzsimmons and Helen Simpkins purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of KATHLEEN E. PETERSON.



From Janice Fitzsimmons and Helen Simpkins - July 22, 2020 at 12:11 PM