



Kathleen M. Rzepka-VanLacken

March 31, 1954 - October 11, 2024

The soul of Kathleen Margaret VanLacken (Rzepka) soared from her Earthly body on October 11, 2024. Kathy was loved by her family as well as countless people across the country who will remember her loving, generous spirit and unfailing optimism.

Kathy was one of eight siblings in a lively loving family. She was a traveler who lived in many states including Michigan, Florida, Alaska and California. She was a schoolteacher who cared deeply for her students and ceaselessly worked to be a positive influence in their lives.

Kathy's adventurous spirit led her into the wilderness as much as possible. She hiked several sections of the Appalachian trail and cooked at a hunting camp in Alaska for a season. Kathy loved autumn Sister Trips hiking and camping in the Michigan woods. Perhaps greatest of all was her love for sunshine and family beach gatherings.

Kathy was completely devoted to members of her family. She married Dan VanLacken on July 15, 2017 and together they continued to travel and enjoy retired life. Kathy kept close friendships with her brothers and sisters into adulthood and had an abundance of nieces and nephews who were like her own children in their mutual love and appreciation.

Her desire to serve her Lord led Kathy to membership in the following organizations: Ave Maria Catholic Parish Women's Society (Eucharistic Minister), Council for Exceptional Children, Michigan Education Association, and Michigan Reading Association. She made regular contributions to

charities too numerous to list.

Kathy is survived by her husband Dan VanLacken and five siblings: Janet Churchill, Joseph (Catherine) Rzepka, Judy Gaw, Sue (Steve) Bombard, and Patti (Cam) Comire. She is also survived by her 19 nieces and nephews who were such an important part of her life and her many VanLacken family members. She was preceded in death by her loving parents Joseph and Patricia Rzepka, her brother John Rzepka, and her sister Peggy Stencel. Visitation from 4-8 pm Sunday October 20th at Pomeroy Funeral Home in Lexington, MI. Rosary at 7 pm. Funeral mass will be held at 11 am Monday October 21st at Ave Maria Parish in Lexington, MI. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Ave Maria Catholic Parish Women's Society or Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **20**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pomeroy Funeral Home - Lexington
5635 Main St.
Lexington, MI 48450
(810) 359-7700
pomeroyfuneralhomes@gmail.com
<https://pomeroyfuneralhomes.com/>

Service

OCT **21**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Denis Catholic Church
5366 Main St.
Lexington, MI 48450
(810) 359-5400
<http://www.avemariaparishmi.com>

Tribute Wall

CC

“ Kiki you made me feel so welcome when I first met you and some of your family years ago when I was a total stranger
I'm currently on vacation in Greece and have been lighting a candle for your soul in each of the churches I've visited here Thank you
Angel Kiki

Cesar Cerna - October 19, 2024 at 04:53 AM

EM

“ Elizabeth M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathleen M. Rzepka-VanLacken.

Elizabeth M. - October 18, 2024 at 01:42 AM

UP

“ Kathy, dear Kathy! Your Uncle Mike and Aunt Pat will certainly miss your smiling face and upbeat personality. You have always been respectful and courteous to our family members, and you've always left a positive impression on all that have met your acquaintance. We will miss you! Our condolences to the remaining Rzepka siblings, you have had a couple of very tough years.

Uncle Mike & Aunt Pat - October 17, 2024 at 11:51 AM

JU

Uncle Mike and Aunt Pat, Kathy loved you right back. Thank you for your love and concern, it has been and continues to be a poignant journey.

Judy - October 27, 2024 at 12:41 PM

PW

“ SO sorry to hear of Kathy's passing. I remember her very well and always enjoyed her visits to the Cadillac Rest . Late in the evening when she and her sister would meet later in the evening and have the wonderful sisterly " Chats". Over the yrs. the girls laughed and cried ..A lot of love.
. You will be greatly Missed by many. Me included Bubbles your old waitress.
Rzepka Family Sorry for your Loss. 🥺💔

Patty (Bubbles) Wilson - October 16, 2024 at 10:12 AM

JU

*Patty, we remember you so well! You were part of the fun at our "meetings". Thank you for your kind words.
Sister Judy*

Judy - October 27, 2024 at 12:38 PM

JS

“ Jeff and Ellen Scott purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Kathleen M. Rzepka-VanLacken.



Jeff and Ellen Scott - October 14, 2024 at 08:43 PM

SB

“ Hanging out with Aunt KiKi and her sister Peggy's family at the Stencels house was always full of fun and laughter. She was very loved by her sister and nieces and nephews and I considered it an honor to get to know her! Her vivacious spirit was contagious! Our prayers are with her entire family.

Sue Brown - October 14, 2024 at 07:49 PM



“ Kathy was fun loving, devoted and a go getter. You will be missed by THS alumni and everyone whom you have encountered. RIP Kathy. Pam Bull



Pam Niemiec (Bull) - October 14, 2024 at 04:30 PM



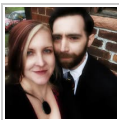
Oh my gosh, this is so shocking. We went to elementary school together and we had a rivalry of who could run faster, Kathy, me or Robert Graustein! I was just talking about her because I heard that she lived in Lexington at one time. We have a place in Port Sanilac and I wondered if I could ever look her up. She always had a big smile on her face and was always so nice and kind. I am so very sorry to hear this news. May she rest in peace.

Sue Droze (Dubel) - October 14, 2024 at 04:50 PM



So very sorry for the loss of Kathy. She was a sweet spirit always with a smile on her face. Rest easy.

Julie Sitzman - October 14, 2024 at 08:24 PM



Hi, I'm Kathy's neice Jessie, Janet's daughter. I recognize some of your names because I have alot of my Mom's Thurston yearbooks. If any of you would be interested in having the yearbooks feel free to contact me.

Jessie Churchill - October 15, 2024 at 03:38 AM

KS

Jessie, I am so very sorry for your loss. Kathy and I shared a locker our senior year of high school and were roommates at Eastern Michigan for three years. We also were in the Dance Department together. We had a ball, she was always very positive, a hard worker, and a good influence. I am so sad. I am interested in a couple yearbooks, do you have 1969 and 70? And how do I get in touch with you? Maybe through messenger? Please send my love to your family for their loss.
Kathleen Sarkisian

Kathleen Sarkisian - October 16, 2024 at 09:02 AM

CO

She was my grand aunt i will miss her

Conrad - November 07, 2024 at 07:53 PM