



Kathleen Joan Bach

July 14, 1946 - February 24, 2013

Kathleen J. Bach
1946-2013

Kathleen Joan (Reiley) Bach, 66 of Northport, Michigan peacefully passed away at home, Sunday, February 24, 2013.

Kathie was born July 14, 1946 in Kalamazoo, the daughter of Orville and Joyce (Fonner) Reiley. Kathie met James N. Bach in 1970 and they were married in Kalamazoo in 1971.

Kathie graduated from Kalamazoo Central High School, Olivet Nazarene College in Kankakee, Illinois and received her master's degree from Western Michigan University.

She was an accomplished artist and continued painting and sketching for most of her life. She created the art for Binder Park Zoo's first guide book.

Kathie taught at Parkwood Upjohn School, Climax – Scotts School, Fulton Elementary School, and for most of her career, at Sunset Elementary School in Vicksburg. She was the recipient of several awards for teaching excellence. Her passion was in helping children learn to read.

She served as superintendent of Sunday School at Vicksburg United

Methodist Church, worthy matron of Vicksburg Lotus Lily Order of the Eastern Star, and volunteered in the operation of Depot Museum in Vicksburg.

Kathie was preceded in death by her mother, Joyce Reiley. She is survived by her husband of 43 years, Jim, one daughter, Nichaleen (Freeman) Phillips, two grandsons, Joshua and Matthew, her father, Orville, three brothers, Mike (Sue), Steve (Paula), Phill (Susan), four nieces, three nephews, and several grand nieces and nephews.

No services will be held at this time.

Memorials may be made in Kathie's honor to the Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation at 301 S. Kalamazoo Ave., Vicksburg, MI 49097 and/or to the Alzheimer's Association.

Please share thoughts and memories with Kathie's family on their online guestbook at www.kalkaskafuneralhome.com. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Tribute Wall

BM

“ *Jim & Nicki*

We are glad you got the card we sent. We are truly saddened by all yours and everybody's loss of Kathy. As always we are a couple who regrets not having spent time with the two of you in recent years. Time does fly. We will always have the many memories of the good ole times with you and Kathy. Too bad everybody is not as happy and fun loving as Kathy or maybe the world would be a better place. May God be with you and Nicki.

Love

Buzz & Paula Milbeck

Buzz & Paula Milbeck - April 02, 2013 at 02:52 PM

CL

“ *So sorry to learn of Kathy's death. I remember her well as a teacher in the Vicksburg Schools. She always seemed to be having a good time. Loved her smile and laugh. Sincere sympathy in this difficult time.*

Carol Lohman

Carol Lohman - March 07, 2013 at 08:10 AM

ST

“ *My heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family of Katie. Sometimes it's hard to find the right words to say when we lose a loved one, so I hope you will find comfort in the wonderful memories you have. I also hope you will find comfort in knowing that God is near to those who are broken at heart. Psalms 34:18*

Stefanie - March 05, 2013 at 02:07 PM

DJ

“ I had the pleasure of working with Kathie for about 15 years....Her sense of humor, smile, laughter, and overall being will be truly missed...I am so sorry Jim and Nikki for your loss...Dick Mays

Dick Mays Jr. - March 03, 2013 at 11:56 AM

DV

“ This world has lost a truly wonderful lady. I had the pleasure of working with Kathie at Sunset Lake Elementary. She was the most fun-loving, caring and free spirit that I have ever known. Kathie would give away anything she had to anyone who needed it and no questions. She had the biggest heart and the biggest smile. Jim and Nicki, you are in our thoughts and prayers.

God Bless! Deb and Butch Vliek

Deb Vliek - March 03, 2013 at 07:36 AM

 Patti
Lewis

“ Jim and Nicki,
I am so saddened by the news of Kathie's passing. Jim, you and Kathie were such a big part of my high school years. Between the house cleaning and the babysitting for you Nicki, I spent so much time at your house. I would talk TO me and not AT me. She always made me feel so "grown up" and special. I talk about my time there often when I talk about my high school days. I am so sorry for your loss. I will be praying for you and your family.

Love,
Patti (Ruggles) Lewis

Patti Lewis - March 02, 2013 at 10:13 PM

CV

“ Jim, and Nicki, so sorry to hear of Kathy's passing. I always remember her smile and laugh. Please accept my deepest sympathies, and know that you are in my prayers at this sad time.

Cande Vermeulen

Cande Vermeulen - March 02, 2013 at 08:21 PM

BS

“ It is a pleasure to be able to say that I worked with Kathie and could call her my friend. Those of us that got to see her every day were blessed by her positive, energetic personality. The Sisters of Little Bass Lake walk away with memories from shopping, playing games, walks in the woods, The Buck Snort, Jones' Ice Cream, and over the top silliness with our friend, Kathie! We will never forget the quiet moments and the bursts of laughter that we shared with her. What a gal!!!

Barbara Sinclair

Sunset Kids Really Shine...thanks to the dedication of people like Kathie!

Barbara Sinclair - March 01, 2013 at 02:00 PM

KN

“ Nicki and Jim, We were so shocked to hear that our dear teacher to my kids, Susan and Wil Plankenhorn has passed. She was so good to all "her kids" in school. She was too young to go but she is in a better place . God rest her soul.

Kathy Nason (Plankenhorn)

Kathy Nason - March 01, 2013 at 12:01 PM

JD

“ Jim and Nicki- we're in FL and Kristen called to convey the news that we have all sustained a tragic loss....our wise, generous, funny and loving friend, Kathie, has left us. What a loss to all who have had the pleasure of calling her "friend." To say that Kathie was a character, doesn't begin to describe her sense of humor and personality! To say that her loving, accepting nature nurtured, taught, and sustained her students and friends doesn't begin to describe her "way." To say that Kathie will be missed, does not begin to describe the hole that her early death has created. Our family will miss her more than words can say; your family is in our thoughts and prayers and hope you are sustained and comforted with your memories of this special, special person.
Don and Joan Dobbin. Kristen and Mark

Joan and Don Dobbin - February 28, 2013 at 10:33 PM

DF

“ I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to work with Kathy at Sunset Elementary. I have many fond memories of working with her in her classroom where she spoke often of her family and shared her love of life and learning with her students. I am saddened to hear of her passing. My deepest sympathy.

Diane Fleming - February 28, 2013 at 09:11 PM

DS

“ Darla Smith lit a candle in memory of Kathleen Joan Bach



Darla Smith - February 28, 2013 at 07:00 PM

RH

“ To Jim and Nicki my sincere thoughts are with you. Kathy and I had many good times as kids and I know she will be missed by many. Prays and thoughts are with you at this sad time. Love Ruthann Howell

Ruthann Howell - February 28, 2013 at 06:49 PM

RW

“ Kathy was my second grade teacher, and a great one at that. But more importantly, she was the mother of my good friend, Nicky. She was always so nice to all of us crazy, and sometime rowdy girls, as we spent lots of fun hours at her house. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to Jim and Nicky, and her family. She was a great lady, and she will be missed.

Renee Wilson - February 28, 2013 at 05:37 PM

RW

“ Renee Wilson sent a virtual gift in memory of Kathleen Joan Bach



Renee Wilson - February 28, 2013 at 05:34 PM

JF

“ I knew her as Mrs. Bach my favorite teacher of all time. She made second grade an adventure in learning and fun. She had a love for her students that was evident to anyone that spent anytime at all with her. She instituted a reward system whereby kids could earn prizes. The highest prize of all was dinner with herself and her husband at their home. I remember working hard to gain that tremendous privilege. She instilled in my young heart not only a love for learning but a true enjoyment of education. I will never forget that dinner... and I am forever grateful to her and Mr. Bach for sharing their lives and investing in the lives of young people. I was so sad to hear of her passing and from all the students she touched Thank you! May God bless and give you peace.

Pastor Matt Fennell - Fulton Elementary, second grade class of 1975

J.Matthew Fennell - February 28, 2013 at 04:54 PM

JP

“ Sorry to hear about your mom Nick. Good thoughts and memories will help you get through the tough times.

*Jason Pileri
Sterling Heights MI*

Jason Pileri - February 28, 2013 at 02:06 PM

DM

“ A wonderful cousin who I spent a lot of time with at the lake when we were growing up. Have missed seeing her the last few years and am saddened about this news. Bless you Kathy.

Duane Meulman - February 28, 2013 at 11:52 AM

Joy
Sabin

“ *Kathy always had a smile on her face and a truly a wonderful lady. She will be missed dearly*

*Joy Ruggles Sabin
Vicksburg Mich*



Joy Sabin - February 28, 2013 at 08:40 AM

RD

“ *So sorry for your loss Nicki, she sounded like a wonderful woman, I pray the good memories of her will help sustain you and your family....*

*In His Love
Rhonda Dostal*

Rhonda Dostal - February 28, 2013 at 08:13 AM

PR

“ *Kathie Bach was the most kind hearted person I have ever known. She was more like a sister to me than a sister-in-law. She will be missed by all who know her.*

Paula Reiley

Paula Reiley - February 27, 2013 at 11:48 AM

RM

“ *Ronda (Rice) Modras lit a candle in memory of Kathleen Joan Bach*



Ronda (Rice) Modras - February 27, 2013 at 07:46 AM

RM

Jim & Nicki, I'm so sorry to hear about Kathie. The Bach family is a second family to us. I remember so many times sitting in the kitchen with Kathie talking and laughing. She was a great woman and loved by many. May loving memories help soothe your souls and heal your pain. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you grieve your loss and celebrate the life Kathie lived. I'm glad I was able to visit with her last year while up north. Take care of each other and love you both!

Ronda (Rice) Modras - February 27, 2013 at 07:52 AM

GB

“ *Glory & Rex Bragg lit a candle in memory of Kathleen Joan Bach*



Glory & Rex Bragg - February 27, 2013 at 12:08 AM

LK

“ *I have wonderful memories of growing up with my cousins Kathy and her brothers. Kathy was four years older than I am, so I looked up to her and followed her around like a puppy. She was like a big sister. She was always interesting and never treated me like I was a nuisance, so I really liked her for that. She left us too soon, but I'm sure God has a plan for her. She will be missed by the entire family. God Bless her grieving husband and daughter.*



Linda Reiley Kelly - February 26, 2013 at 10:12 PM

'S

“ *'sthe Snavley lit a candle in memory of Kathleen Joan Bach*



'sthe snavley - February 26, 2013 at 09:40 PM

KV

“ *I have so many great memories of Kathie. We both taught at Sunset and therefore shared many happy tales and times with our students. My other fond memories include the times outside of school playing cards and quite a few trips UP NORTH ! We would always drag Kathie shopping which was not exactly an activity that she enjoyed. We would sometimes find her resting on a bench outside the mall. She would often buy a new purse and spend hours unloading her old one. We joked that if the plane went down, we wanted Kathie to be with us as her purse had everything needed for survival. On one trip north, Kathie used several rolls of film taking pictures of a spider at PetersonPark. Her attraction to old barns also resulted in many pictures.*

Kathie was a very thoughtful and caring person. She touched so many lives in a very positive way. Her family, friends and students were all number one in her life. We are thankful for the good memories. Kent & Linda Van Emst

Kent VanEmst - February 26, 2013 at 08:26 PM

JB

“ I am so saddened to hear of Kathie's passing. She was a dear friend, and we shared many good times together. Kathie always had a smile, and was so kind-hearted. She was a wonderful teacher and was loved and respected by fellow teachers and students. I will treasure the many times we shared. I am thinking of Jim, Nikki, and family.

Judy Barnebee - February 26, 2013 at 07:52 PM

LM

“ Jim and Nicki - I will treasure the wonderful memories of Kathy. I loved teaching with her at Vicksburg, and will remember fondly our 4 years together at Fulton. She loved each and every child in her classroom and made them feel special. We shared many fun times as freinds too - the canoe trip and our adventure to the UP were highlights. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of sadness. Lynn McDaniel

Lynn McDaniel - February 26, 2013 at 06:41 PM

FC

“ Hello Jim, Nikki and family,
Lynn sent us the sad news of Kathy's passing. I still see the smile, the laugh and fun we had teaching together. We're in Florida at this time. Please know we're thinking of you and send to you our deepest sympathy. What a fun gal. God Bless!

Frank and Jackie Chapin

Frank and Jackie Chapin - February 26, 2013 at 05:24 PM

MC

Kathy was just the best. When my grandson came to stay with us one summer he needed help with reading so as not to fall behind. Katy came over with a lesson plan and assistance with the material he had bought with. I saw her magic that summer. Rest in peace dear Kathy.

Mary Castleberry

Mary Castleberry - February 28, 2013 at 05:25 PM