



Carol Jean Novak

May 22, 1950 - November 24, 2017

Carol J. Novak, age 67, of Dixon, Illinois passed away peacefully in her home surrounded by family and friends on November 24th at 6:20 pm after a courageous battle with Glioblastoma brain cancer. Carol was a beloved wife to her husband, Ken for 39 years. She was a compassionate mother and step-mother to Michele (Chris) Podkulski, Christine (Bill) Wengelewski, Amanda (Doug) Hicks, Carissa (Kevin) Weller, and Clarence Novak. She loved spending time with and spoiling her nine grandchildren: Nicole, Megan, Brian, Ben, Liam, Austin, Abby, Lily and Andrew. She has two surviving brothers, Bill (Lisa) and Jack (Kim) Schuh. She was preceded in death by her parents William and Lorraine Schuh.

In addition to her own family, she touched the lives of over 300 foster children and countless others in her career over 40 years as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. She worked at Lutheran Social Services of Illinois for many years, working her way up to Executive Director of Nachusa Lutheran Home. For the past 17 years, she worked at Sinnissippi Centers as Clinical Supervisor of Child Welfare Services and Parent Support Programming. She coordinated the Youth Garden Program for at-risk youth, which was sponsored by the Garden Stock Art and Music festival.

She lived for many years in Amboy where she contributed to the community by helping organize and plan the Amboy Lions Club Depot Days Parade and

Draw Down. She was an avid reader (even while driving), a Titanic History Buff, a world traveler, and loved to kayak. She was an active member of the Franklin Grove Church of the Brethren, serving on the board and as a worship leader. One of her final gifts to the children of her community was a donation to the Dixon Park District to improve the Splash Pad.

The visitation will be at Jones Funeral Home at 204 S. Ottawa in Dixon on Friday, December 1st from 4-7pm. The funeral will be at 10:00 am on Saturday, December 2nd at Franklin Grove Church of the Brethren, burial will be at Emmert Cemetery with luncheon to follow at the Church, 121 W. North St., Franklin Grove. In lieu of flowers Carol would prefer memorial donations to Sinnissippi Centers Foundation for the Youth Garden Program.

Cemetery Details

Emmert Cemetery

1380 IL Rte 38
Franklin Grove, IL 61310

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 1. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Jones Funeral Home, Dixon
204 South Ottawa
Dixon, IL 61021
Ph: 815-288-2241
info@thejonesfh.com
<https://www.thejonesfh.com>

Service

DEC 2. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Church of the Brethren
121 West North Street
Franklin Grove, IL 61031

Tribute Wall



“ *Carol Jean Novak*

October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *Carol Jean Novak*

December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ *I have nothing but good memories of Carol and Ken. I use to be one of the screwed up kids that use to live in the Nachusa Luthern home where they both worked. She helped me thru so many problems while I was there. Rest In Peace carol, you will truly be missed by all.*

Rory Compton - February 28, 2018 at 04:07 PM



“ *Mary Milne lit a candle in memory of Carol Jean Novak*




Mary Milne - January 16, 2018 at 09:08 PM



“ *To Carol's family:
Al thought I did not know you, I worked with Carol at Sinnissippi.
She was a great lady and great with the kids. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Karen O'Malley*

Karen O'Malley - December 15, 2017 at 02:54 PM

 Lisa
Higby
LeFevre

“ 1 file added to the album Youth Garden Program



Lisa Higby LeFevre - December 01, 2017 at 06:54 PM

LB

“ Love Jen, Mary, and Brantley purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Carol Jean Novak.



Love Jen, Mary, and Brantley - November 30, 2017 at 09:53 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Carol Jean Novak.



November 28, 2017 at 01:13 PM

 Matty
Elliott

“ I first met Carol when my family had foster children. She was a dedicated worker and cared a lot about the children she served. My family also baby sat for Michelle & Christine. I met her later in life when I coached Clarence on the SO basketball team. Carol would come to the games and cheer him on. My prayers to her family.

Matty Elliott - November 28, 2017 at 10:32 AM

MI

“ We are saddened to hear of Carol's passing. Many fond memories of working together at NLH in the Jr. boys unit. So glad we got to visit the summer of 2016 (we didn't get back this last summer). We are thinking and praying for you, Ken, and all the family. Love, Mike and Cindy Barge

Mike - November 28, 2017 at 09:25 AM

CS

“ Measuring Carol's impact is like trying to measure the breadth of God's love, she lived her life waging peace. Bless her soul.

Carolyn Sweeney - November 27, 2017 at 10:48 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Carol Jean Novak.



November 27, 2017 at 10:23 PM

EA

“ I will always think of carol my second sister she helped me the most of any person when i returned from my tour of viet nam. her words gave me comfort an she understood my pain. I no carol will be missed by her two bros, bill jack and her third bro.me. she was a great lady . I no she has now moved to her place with the angles . I am sure her mom an dad opened the gates to meet her an they are all at peace.my regrets to all family friends for their loss. when a persons heart is as big as carols was its hard to say good bye. say a pray it helps you heal. lol. to all Edward anderson

ed anderson - November 27, 2017 at 05:09 PM

ES

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. We are sorry for your loss. . Ed& Sharon Schwabauer:

Ed Schwabauer - November 27, 2017 at 04:53 PM

ES

“ Ed S. purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Carol Jean Novak.



Ed S. - November 27, 2017 at 04:21 PM

JZ

“ Jean Zudell purchased the Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." for the family of Carol Jean Novak.



Jean Zudell - November 27, 2017 at 04:20 PM

TS

“ Taryn Schaefer lit a candle in memory of Carol Jean Novak



Taryn Schaefer - November 27, 2017 at 03:14 PM

GN

“ *this is so sad a mother of true love not buy force dies of cancer. to when a mother of just nature and simple responsibility just live forever an will never be missed when they die.*
Sincerely GNMAREZA

GNMAREZA - November 27, 2017 at 11:17 AM

SL

“ *We send our deepest condolences. Carol was a wonderful person we met on several occasions. And at the end it was an honor to be able to follow all the wonderful trips that Ken had took her on, and see her with her family and her grandchildren the love she had for everyone. Now she's up in heaven in Jesus arms watching over everyone.*



Susan Land - November 27, 2017 at 09:37 AM

FI

“ *Frank Hiatt III lit a candle in memory of Carol Jean Novak*



Frank Hiatt III - November 27, 2017 at 09:32 AM

BC

“ *So very sad to hear about Carol's passing, we certainly shared some laughs at NLH.*
God's speed to you, Ken, and our best to your family and friends.
Bob and Wendy Cesarek

Bob/Wendy Cesarek - November 26, 2017 at 11:34 PM

 Bears
Mary

“ I had the pleasure of working with Carol at Lutheran Social Services in the early 90's. Carol was a great mentor and was very passionate about the work she did helping foster children. I'm sorry to see that she has passed, however I am certain she earned her wings for the many lives she touched for so many years! God bless you Carol!!!I'm privileged to have worked with and known you!!

Bears Mary - November 26, 2017 at 08:23 PM

TW

“ They say you don't always remember what people say to you, but you will always remember how they made you feel. Carol made me feel good about myself, respected and safe. She made me feel like I was home even if I was far from home. She was my supervisor, my mentor and my friend and I will always love and miss her. I send hugs and comfort to her family. Tamara Wolf



tammie wolf - November 26, 2017 at 05:18 PM

EC

“ Carol was so supportive of me when I was trying to get used to being a pastor's kid and later when I was trying to decide what I wanted to be when I grew up. She was like that for a lot of people.

Eric Christiansen - November 26, 2017 at 04:30 PM

MS

“ *The fondest memory I have of my Aunt Carol is a few years back when I made a trip to Illinois with my sister to visit the family. Somehow, my sister and I found ourselves signing up for our first ever 5k, the Reagan Run. It was my Aunt Carol’s sense of humor that made that day one of the fondest family moments I’ve ever had. I remember standing at the Start gate with absolutely no running shoes and my aunt randomly handing both of us pairs of old tennis shoes! It’s like she pulled them out of her pockets and said GO! Top it off with the lovely Reagan t-shirts that she handed my sister and I; we were truly dressed to impress! As a kid, I was in my own little world and never realized how truly funny my Aunt was. She even sent us t-shirts from the run as a joke the following year (even though we didn’t participate). I wore that shirt last night, and smiled. She was a joy to be around and she will truly be missed. I am grateful for all she has done for our family, especially my grandmother. She truly brought our family together.*

mary skapof - November 26, 2017 at 03:59 PM