



## Diane Kay Goerlitz

December 27, 1957 - January 14, 2019

Diane K. Goerlitz, age 61, of Bloomington, died Monday, January 14, 2019, at Advocate BroMenn Regional Medical Center in Normal. She was born December 27, 1951, in Richland Center, WI, the daughter of John and Velma (Spencer) Goerlitz.

Diane had been a Teacher at Bloomington High School for the past 25 years.

She was preceded in death by her paternal and maternal grandparents.

Survivors include her parents of Amboy; her brother David (Cindy) Goerlitz of Attica, MI; her sister Linda (Mark) Ross of Amboy; 2 nephews Christopher and Lucas Ross; 1 niece Morgan Ross; and 1 great-niece Jillian Marie.

Cremation rites have been accorded. At Diane's request there will be no services or visitation.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Diane Kay Goerlitz*

October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *Diane Kay Goerlitz*

December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ *I am glad that I had the pleasure to know Diane. The passing of her shocks me. Diane was a loving, and caring person to everyone. I am glad that I could get to know her. She will be missed by many!*

**Alyssa Terven** - February 05, 2019 at 08:05 AM



“ *The news of Diane's passing saddens me beyond my ability to explain. She was my colleague for decades, not just at BHS, but at the Moveable Feast summer program for educators. She will be sorely missed.*

**Tom Cowdery** - January 18, 2019 at 12:44 AM



“Diane and I shared a strong will and a sense of indignation when someone was wronged. Despite us butting heads because of our strong wills, I respected her work ethic and her drive to protect the “least.” We both strove for what was right, and I always admired her tenacity. I envision her in heaven with an Excel document open letting Saint Peter know of a more efficient way to run the gate. Until we meet again, Diane!

*JoLynn Plato  
D87 Teacher and BEA Member*

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**JoLynn Paul Plato** - January 17, 2019 at 05:27 PM

RB

“Very saddened and surprised to hear of Diane’s passing. She was the epitome of dedication to the teaching profession. I remember my early years in D87 seeing Diane’s car in the parking lot at BHS every time (day/night, weekend) I drove by the building. I couldn’t believe someone could put so much time into this job. But that was Diane. Later, she left me massive “shoes to fill” as BEA president. She literally had her fingerprints on every aspect of this district for many years. I’ve never met anyone else that could be as blunt yet so compassionate at the same time like Diane. I miss our union talks. She was missed as a teacher and leader once she retired, and will now be missed as a friend and special person in passing. - Rich Baldwin, teacher, D87.

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**Rich Baldwin** - January 17, 2019 at 11:55 AM

LW

“ I am sorry to hear of Diane’s passing. Diane and I taught together at BHS. She was a true educator who loved her subject matter and communicated that to her students. She was a tireless supporter of teachers in serving as BEA president. Her dry sense of humor as well as her compassion and intelligence were appreciated.

*My sincere condolences to you her family.*

*Linda Coffman Winterland*

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**Linda Winterland** - January 17, 2019 at 09:29 AM

MH

“ Diane was one of the most dedicated teachers I have ever known. I had the privilege of having her as a colleague at BHS. She was a leader in the Education Association for many years. I thanked her for our strong contract and salary schedule. I'm sorry she has left this world so soon.

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**Marcia Hirst** - January 16, 2019 at 10:15 PM

KG

“ Diane's intelligence and wisdom inspired me for many years as her "across the hall" neighbor in Lower Purple at BHS. She was a classic individual who gave of herself relentlessly in the classroom and boardroom. Peace in the days ahead.

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**Kathryn Gillespie** - January 16, 2019 at 06:23 PM

LJ

“ I got to know Diane through IEA when we were both local presidents. Diane was a great leader and advocate for teachers and students. Her knowledge of technology was top notch. She shared her expertise with many others in our part of the state through the association as well as the Movable Feast training programs. Please accept my condolences for your loss.

*Lou Ann Jacobs*

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**Lou Ann Jacobs** - January 16, 2019 at 05:50 PM

KJ

*Such a shock to hear of Diane's passing. She was a dedicated teacher who balanced her craft as an art and a science. She boldly represented her teachers as IEA president for many years, and she was fully committed to her students and her devotion to teaching every child. Diane was also a strong advocate for teachers teaching teachers. Diane was a leader in so many facets of D87, from her teacher mentoring programs through leading the technology revolution for teachers, students administrators and assistants throughout D87 and far beyond. I offer my condolences to all who knew her and loved her.*

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**Keran Johnson** - January 17, 2019 at 02:38 PM

AB

“ *Diane was a prolific teacher, pioneering technology as an instructional tool, and creating engaging lessons. She was a very conscientious union President and constant advocate for teachers in D87. She willingly shared her expertise with her colleagues. My thoughts are with her and her family.*

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**Anne Brady Besler, Teacher BHS** - January 16, 2019 at 04:15 PM

PB

“ John and Velma and family--Bill and I are very sorry to hear of Diane's passing. We feel we knew her because of the many times you shared her life and what she was doing with us. You are in our prayers.

*Bill and Pat Burke*

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**Pat Burke** - January 16, 2019 at 03:42 PM

DV

“ Diane taught AP Biology at BHS and inspired many of her students to become doctors, dentists, researchers, nurses, and science teachers.

*Diane was Teacher of the Year for the IEA Region 14. It was one of her greatest moments to be recognized for her teaching biology by her friends and colleagues in the BEA. As President of the BEA Diane was an advocate for ALL teachers in D87. Diane shared her love of technology with administrators and teachers throughout the state of IL with professional development with The Moveable Feast trainings offered at District 87 Schools. Ms. Goerlitz, an Illinois Wesleyan University alumna, motivated and inspired all with her growth mindset for learning. Prayers for all of her family, caregivers, and friends.*



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**Deb Voorhees** - January 16, 2019 at 03:14 PM



“ Joanie Knoll lit a candle in memory of Diane Kay Goerlitz



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**Joanie Knoll** - January 16, 2019 at 01:06 PM

LB

“ Diane was a very special person. I enjoyed taking care of her. We would joke around and laugh all the time. I will miss her. I'm so sorry she gone to soon.

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**Lexi brady** - January 16, 2019 at 11:02 AM

RL

“ I am so sorry to hear of Diane's passing. I had tremendous respect for her as a leader of the Bloomington teachers. Although we were usually on the opposite sides of issues, she always was upfront in her advocacy for the teachers of Bloomington. The Bloomington Education Association has had many presidents over the years. She led the BEA with clarity, wisdom, and passion through some very difficult times.

*Rick Laleman  
Assistant Superintendent (retired)  
Bloomington District 87*

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**Rick Laleman** - January 16, 2019 at 10:24 AM

AJ

“ Angie And John lit a candle in memory of Diane Kay Goerlitz



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**Angie and John** - January 16, 2019 at 10:18 AM



“ I enjoyed knowing Diane while we were both leaders in our local teachers' unions. Diane was a more experienced leader, and she shared her knowledge with me. Diane was a wise and persistent advocate for her members, and during her many years as president, her union enjoyed a reputation of strength and cooperation.  
*Vickie Mahrt*

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**Vickie Mahrt** - January 16, 2019 at 09:00 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Diane Kay Goerlitz.



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January 16, 2019 at 06:56 AM



“ *Marilyn Braida lit a candle in memory of Diane Kay Goerlitz*



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**marilyn braida** - January 15, 2019 at 04:39 PM



“ *John and Velma, we are so sorry to hear of the loss of your daughter. May God comfort you during your grief and help you find peace. You are in our prayers.*  
*Deb and Steve Gilmore*

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**Debra Gilmore** - January 15, 2019 at 02:59 PM