



Kathryn Muriel Lillyman

June 1, 1924 - July 17, 2018

Kathryn (Kit) M. Lillyman, 94, of Dixon died July 17, 2018.

She was born June 1, 1924 in Highland Park, IL, the daughter of Kenneth and Zada (McAllister) Ligare. Kathryn attended high school in Oak Park, IL and continued college at Lawrence, Rosary and Beloit, graduation Summa Cum Laude from Beloit in 1951. During World War II she worked at the Chicago Association of Commerce as a translator of foreign language correspondence. In 1946 she married Walter H. Lillyman in River Forest. The next fifteen years were spent in Beloit raising their family and establishing deep friendships. Kathryn was also a founder of Great Books in Beloit, a local Art Gallery and the Kappa Alpha Theta Chapter at Beloit College. She taught Spanish part-time at the college.

In 1961, Kathryn, Walter and the family went to Buenos Aires, Argentina where he served as Bicultural Director for the U.S. Information Service and she taught English at the American Community School. This was a unique bilingual school serving children of those in the Diplomatic Corps and American Businesses in Argentina.

The family returned to Beloit in 1964, when she taught for several years and then won a Carnegie Grant for Mature Women. She was named an E.B. Fred Fellow at the University of Wisconsin where she attended Spanish-only classes for a year and received her M.A. in Spanish in 1966.

In 1967 Kathryn started teaching Spanish, French and English at the new Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon, where she was an enthusiastic and

innovative teacher, creating Survival Spanish courses for those in many professions, as well as standard Spanish and French courses.

Her courses in Technical Writing took her to many community industries, where she put executives and business personnel to work. Her work at the college extended to a summer workshop, created by Kit and Karen Pinter for 72 Indochinese refugees: teaching English to those who knew none. The course received national praise.

Kit founded and served as President of the Northern Illinois Chapter of the American Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese and was also a board member of the Illinois Council on the teaching of foreign languages. She presented papers at national and international conventions, introducing her Survival Spanish course for Nurses.

In the community she served as member and past president of the Dixon Chapter of American Association of University Women. She was a member of the Phidian Art Club. During retirement years, after 1995, she volunteered and served as a tutor for VITAL (Volunteers in Teaching Adult Literacy) teaching after fifty years, she still enjoyed it.

She studied at several summer school programs in Spain, France and Costa Rica, but the most interesting and prized fellowship grant she received was from the national Endowment of the Humanities, to study French at Harvard. Kathryn loved to travel, whether with her sister on elder hostels or attending summer schools in Salamanca, Spain, Dixon, France, Mexican sites or just plain across the country at many different summer schools.

In family-raising years she and Walt, their kids and those of their close friends went camping, visiting many beautiful historic and fun parks. Kit's pride was her family and was most evident as she grew to understand the outstanding and varied careers and work of her sons and daughter. She most enjoyed family celebrations together. Her friendships, created after retirement, were deep as she continued teaching Survival Spanish for Seniors to her amigos. Kit was presented an honorary Associate of Arts degree from Sauk Valley Community College on May 11, 2018, "in recognition of her exceptional

distinction of service to her family, profession, and community."

She liked best to be at home, near or ready for visits from her children and grandchildren. Also there was the cat she and her husband named Dulcinea. Kathryn is survived by her sons, Thomas, James (Dina), Daniel (Barbara), and Walter III (Michele), and her daughter, Nancy (Jerry) Holcomb. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Katy (Lillyman) Keller, Joseph Lillyman, Jessie Lillyman, and Brianna Lillyman, two great granddaughters, Hailey Lillyman and Remy Lillyman, and one great grandson, Conner Russell.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Walter, her brother Kenneth Ligare, her sister Blanche Lindmark, and one great granddaughter Gracie Lillyman.

She additionally remembers two special sisters-in-law, Carol Ligare and Catherine Owen and her lifetime friend, Suzy Boltz.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, July 20, 2018, beginning with an 11:30 AM prayer service in the Jones Funeral Home in Dixon, followed by a 12:00 PM Mass of Christian Burial at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Dixon with the Rev. Thomas Doyle, officiating. Burial will follow in Oakwood Cemetery in Dixon. Visitation will be held on Friday, from 9:30 AM until 11:30 AM in the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Kit Lillyman Endowment at the Sauk Valley College Foundation. Condolences may be sent online at www.thejonesfh.com.

Cemetery Details

Oakwood

416 S Dement Ave
Dixon, IL 61021

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 20. 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

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

Service

JUL 20. 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church in Dixon
612 S. Highland Ave.
Dixon, IL 61021
(815) 284-7719
office@stpatrickdixon.comcastbiz.net
<http://www.stpatrickdixon.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *Kathryn Muriel Lillyman*

October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *Kathryn Muriel Lillyman*

December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ *Jim and Dina,
Our deepest sympathy in the loss of your mother. What an
exceptional lady.
Rick, Chris, and Landon Bollman*

Christine Bollman - July 20, 2018 at 08:57 AM



“ *Exelon, CPS Engineering Department purchased
the Beautiful Whisper for the family of Kathryn
Muriel Lillyman.*



Exelon, CPS Engineering Department - July 20, 2018 at 08:55 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Kathryn Muriel Lillyman.



July 19, 2018 at 09:26 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kathryn Muriel Lillyman.



July 19, 2018 at 05:13 PM



“ Kit was one of the many talented and dedicated faculty at Sauk Valley Community College when I was President there from 1986 to 2005. She was always pleasant to me and all her colleagues-- but really DEVOTED to her students and education. So sad that she is gone-- but what a long and impressive life she had! Her family should be VERY PROUD of her.

*Dr. Richard L. Behrendt
President Emeritus
Sauk Valley Community College*

Richard L. Behrendt - July 19, 2018 at 11:35 AM

JC

“ Jason and Debbie Creek purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Kathryn Muriel Lillyman.



Jason and Debbie Creek - July 19, 2018 at 09:12 AM

TB

“ Dear Lillyman Family
Kit was an extraordinary woman and teacher. I had a class with her in the 80's at Sauk. She instilled a sense of wanting to learn in her students. She was simply the best. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. God Bless you all and Mrs. Lillyman.
Tony Baratta, P.E.
Dixon, IL

Tony Baratta - July 19, 2018 at 05:51 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Kathryn Muriel Lillyman.



July 18, 2018 at 11:47 PM

DB

“ I met Kit when she first moved to Dixon and became the foreign language instructor at Sauk. She was one of my favorite instructors. Kit made her classes alive and engaging! She always went beyond what was required of her. She was always willing to share her experiences and travels with her classes. She not only was a great teacher, but became a good friend. Her door was always opened, even if I wanted just to pop in and say "hi." One summer she tutored me when I was taking advanced graduate level Spanish classes, refusing any pay. She was so willing to help me reach my goal and dreams. She was so patient and never gave up on me, even when I was discouraged and about to give up. I can honestly say, Kit was one of those special teachers we hear about who help students become their best. I will always be thankful for her, and will always remember all she did for me. She helped me become the person I am today. She will be greatly missed.

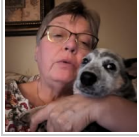
Dennis Buccola

Dennis Buccola - July 18, 2018 at 03:32 PM

LS

“ I already had 5 years of Spanish classes, but as a medical technologist, I took her Spanish class for the medical professional in the late 70's. It was very helpful and I enjoyed going. I have not seen her since then.

Louise Schafer - July 18, 2018 at 01:09 PM



“ I met Kit only one time. It was withing the last year when she came to Sauk Valley Community College for a visit and I was introduced to her. She spoke about her teachings in various places and you could see the love in her eyes as she spoke. I know that Kit will be missed by all those that knew her. Her history will live on forever. Thank you Kit for sharing your knowledge, love, and friendship with everyone you met. God bless you and your family.



Cyndi Laidig Brockman - July 18, 2018 at 10:17 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Kathryn Muriel Lillyman.



July 18, 2018 at 10:03 AM



“ We had many wonderful times and "spirited" conversations with Kitty at the Lake! We enjoyed her zest for life! We will surely miss her!
In peace
Lenny and Jackie

jackie wanek - July 18, 2018 at 09:23 AM

SB

“ *I will never forget our high school days and the big 12! I loved our visits on the phone and at the Lake! I will miss you very much Kitty!*
With love
Suzy Boltz

suzanne boltz - July 18, 2018 at 08:49 AM

JR

“ *She was a great woman and exceptional teacher. Joy Rock, Chesterfield, Mo*

Joy Rock - July 18, 2018 at 08:33 AM