



Kay Louise Velker

February 1, 1942 - March 1, 2014

Our beloved Kay ran into the arms of her Savior, whom she loved and served on March 1, 2014. His words to her were "Well done, good and faithful servant." (Matthew 25:21). After dealing with Parkinson's Disease and cancer she was suddenly taken "home".

Born February 1, 1942 to the late Henry and Anne (Saltz) Velker in Ann Arbor, it was there that she also completed all of her education. This included a B.S. and Masters from the University of Michigan. Kay developed the first Resource Room in Cincinnati, OH, where she lived for 10 years, being very involved in Sweet Adeline's, including a championship quartet!

Drawn to Traverse City with family there, she taught at Central High's Resource Room. Her real heart was missions and worship, so she left teaching to spend 16 months in Israel with Project Kibbutz. Returning, Kay felt led to serve at Living God Christian School as a music teacher and then Project Coordinator at the Church of the Living God for many years. She coordinated and went on numerous short-term mission trips all over the world.

For years she loved leading worship at the church and being a part of their worship team. In her 60's, she served two 8 week stints on Mercy Ships in Africa. In her 70's, she loved working as a Learning Partner at Traverse Heights School and was quite involved with the local 9/12 group, enjoying a drama group where she was the "flamboyant" Dolley Madison. She loved the color purple so in her memory, we encourage friends and family to wear some purple to her celebration service.

Surviving family members are her brothers Glen (Alice) Velker of Miami, FL and Lou (Beth) Velker of Ann Arbor, her sister Marie (Bill) Geer of Traverse City and her niece Kellie (Matthew) Geer Carlson of Weymouth, MA and their daughter Leah. Also included are special cousins and nephews, nieces and their children.

Visitation for friends and family will be held from 5 - 8 pm Thursday, March 6 at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home. Graveside services will take place at 4:00 PM on

Friday, March 7 at Bethlehem Cemetery, 2801 Jackson Road in Ann Arbor.

A service celebrating Kay's life will take place at 1:30 PM on Sunday, March 9 at the Church Of The Living God, 1514 Birmley Rd., Traverse City with Pastor Ted Smith officiating.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Mercy Ships, P. O. Box 1930, Garden Valley, TX 75771.

Please share your memories of Kay with her family by way of her online guest book at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com>.

The family is being served by Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Events

MAR **Visitation** 05:00PM - 08:00PM

6

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

MAR **Memorial Service** 01:30PM

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Church of the Living God
1514 Birmley Road, Traverse City, MI, US

Comments



“ It is with sadness that we heard of the passing of Kay. Our thoughts and prayers are with Kay's loved ones. From all of us here at Mercy Ships, we thank and honor Kay for her service. She is part of our legacy of bringing hope and healing to the forgotten and we praise Jesus for people like Kay.

Marius Prinsloo - Mercy Ships Alumni Relations

Marius Prinsloo - March 17, 2014 at 12:58 PM



“ Dear Marie - At the h.s. reunion last summer, as we were catching up on each other's lives, you told me quite a bit about Kay. I am so glad you did, because after that I felt I had actually met her. You expressed being so fortunate that you and Bill and Kellie and Stephen had been able to live near Kay during your children's formative years. The obituary underscores what a loving and compassionate individual and community and church member she was - she was a caring missionary, a committed educator, talented musician and actress. But what I heard from you in July, was about Kay as your much loved sister, your tower of strength, the best possible aunt to your children, a strong role model for Kellie, a devoted sister-in-law to Bill, a musical companion, and a heck of a lot of fun to be around. It was clear that you loved her dearly. I'm sure you will miss her very, very much. As will Kellie and Bill, of course, and Glen and Lou and their families. Condolences to you all.

Nancy B.

Nan and Stan Bidlack - March 12, 2014 at 09:07 PM



“ I feel so badly to have missed services for Kay due to the lateness of my receiving news of her passing. I remain in Ann Arbor, where we met when we were very small children and were best friends for several years until I moved away just before 5th grade. We were born the same year, but Kay was a few months older than me. We met while smiling and sitting on our respective curbs across the street from one another. After we finally said Hi, I recall our spending days together, for years, with every activity available to us then.

We jumped rope, played hop-scotch on our sidewalks, ate her Mom's wonderful tomato soup with spaghetti in it, which was new to me and I loved. We skated at Burns Park, played board games for hours, played what we could on the piano and listened to her dad play piano, which I thought was amazing. We played dress-up with my mom's old party gowns and staged made-up plays. I recall going to Clague's market at the end of the street for candy and wandering our small neighborhood together making up games and meeting the other few kids on the street. I remembering going to Bethlehem Church with her and her family and studying the books of the Bible.

Her mom was wonderful to me in many ways. I felt so sad when she would come to our house with tears and worry, to talk with my mom about Marie who had to wear braces on her legs due to polio. I remember feeling shy with her older brother Glen, and delighted with her little brother Louie. I am so sorry to have never met her again after we moved. She sounds as though she lived a truly amazing life and was so well loved by so many, as she so deserved.

My thoughts and prayers are with Kay and her family, always, with love and gratitude for the wonderful years we were in each other's lives.

Martha (Munn) Sullivan

Martha Jean Munn Sullivan - March 11, 2014 at 03:56 AM



“ Dear Kay followed sweet Jesus All of her life. make haste,my beloved and be thou like to a roe or to a young hart upon the mountain of spices. Song of Soloman8:1With much love Bob & Genie Tampa, Florida (904-625-0894

Bob & Genie Trotter - March 06, 2014 at 06:46 PM



“ Dear Family,
I'm moved by the Holy Spirit to encourage you with these words written in 1 Thessalonians 4, concerning precious Kay:

Brothers and sisters, don't be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or grieve like the rest of men who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him.

Kay is not dead! She is asleep!

The Lord Himself will come down from Heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first!!

Glory! Stephen, and Kay will lead the way!! Be encouraged, dear ones. We will be with the Lord forever. And it will happen in the twinkling of His eye! We can only imagine!!

Much love to all, Gee Gee

Gee Gee Erickson - March 06, 2014 at 10:16 AM



“ I had been blessed over 35 years ago to meet Ms Velker. When as a child she began to sing in a quartet with my mother named "The Touch of Sunshine". Amazing voice! My brother and I would sit in the living room, watch and listen while my mom, Marie, Kay and Marilyn would rehearse. I would look forward to their every week practice at our house. She was so talented. The singing, directing and the shows...wow the Sweet Adeline shows. Thank you Kay and Marie for so many fond memories and allowing me to be a part of them. May God bless you with the angel wings you so deserve.

Angie Girard Ward

Angela Girard Ward - March 06, 2014 at 07:46 AM



“ I have been so blessed to share the memory of Kay's beautiful smile and deep love for Jesus. As a student of Kay's, I am thankful for her influence of words to "Never Give Up"! Saying..."I can do all things through Christ who gives me the strength."

Dawn Fuller - March 06, 2014 at 06:21 AM



“ Kay aka "Dolley Madison" was one of our dear members of "The Founding Players" from the Constitution Celebration. She was Charming "Flamboyant" and Colorful. She added laughter and lightened the seriousness of the message "The Founding Players" portrayed of the development and history of our country. Kay had a passion for acting and love for defending the Freedom this Country. I loved hearing her personal experiences as a teacher. Kay will be dearly missed.

Heather Cerone

Heather Cerone - March 05, 2014 at 06:12 PM



“ Always a teacher, Kay even in retirement cared about the education of the youth. It was more than education to her but making learning fun leaving a lasting impression. As one of the members of the Founding Players, we will dearly miss her and her partying character Dolley Madison. Flamboyant was her way of describing her character and we were instructed to accent it. Definitely she caught the interests from our young audience as they responded to her every move. She gave us as a group, the needed changes taking us from the serious period in history to a fun and proud event sharing the joy from our country's founders and their excitement for development of a new country. She was a true patriot and loved her country and all of its gifts.

Always in our memory,
Jody Ferry

Jody Ferry - March 05, 2014 at 05:41 PM



“ We will miss the gentle spirit of Kay, next door in the big house on the corner. Reading the obituary, there was so much more to her contributions in life, then we ever imagined.

Marie, Bill, Kellie ~ our sincere sympathy.

Russ & Sally Cole

Sally Cole - March 05, 2014 at 07:12 AM



“ Kay was a dear and dedicated Learning Partner Volunteer for several years. Her experience as a special education teacher was very valuable, and her history of work was quite interesting! She always had a smile and a kind thought to share. She will be missed, and fondly remembered. -- Laura Shumate, Learning Partners Coordinator

Laura Shumate - March 04, 2014 at 10:45 AM



“ "To be a Christian is to follow Jesus on a great adventure. Setting out like Abraham and Sarah traveling toward the city Hebrews describes as "unseen but real" - the city designed and built by God. Kay - my dear friend, who was always called to adventurous faith, came into my life in 1960 when we joined the Alpha Mu Chapter of Sigma Kappa at the University of Michigan. We shared the same major and passion for teaching children with special needs, were room mates and enjoyed attending football and baseball games together.

Across many years, she always reminded me, that despite all of our crises, to need to witness to the fact that God's Spirit is still at work in our world today. God is calling all of us to adventurous faith - thank you beloved Kay for those phone calls, e-mails, Christmas letters are meaningful times together. You will be deeply missed by many!

Jean Samuelson Elder - March 9, 2014

Jean Elder - March 09, 2014 at 12:34 PM