



Emma L Lemon

December 18, 1928 - April 26, 2016

Emma Lou Lemon 87, passed away Tuesday, April 26, 2016 in Kankakee. She was born Emma Louise Opperman, at home on her family farm near Lincon, IL on December 18, 1928, the daughter of George and Emma (Begolka) Opperman. She graduated from Lincoln Community High School as co-valedictorian. She graduated from Illinois State University where she met her husband Alan Lemon. They were married August 14, 1949 at St. John United Church of Christ in Lincoln. He preceded her in death on December 24, 2002.

She taught school for 27 years, the last 20 years at Grant Park Elementary School. After retiring , she started doing volunteer work. She was a life member and past president of the Riverside Medical Center Auxiliary. She served on the Kankakee Valley Women's Symphony for over 25 years and was a past president. She also was a life member of the Kankakee Historical Society, member and past president of the Tuesday Book review, and a member and past board member of the Kankakee Women's Club. She belonged to three study groups – Minerva, Crusaders, and Twentieth Century Club, serving as president of each.

She and her husband received the Samaritan of the Year Award from Riverside Medical Center in 1992 where she had volunteered over 6000 hours. She received the Outstanding Volunteer award for Kankakee County in 2011. She was a member of the Riverside Foundation Board and Senior Living Board.

She enjoyed being with her family, golfing, playing bridge, reading, crossword puzzles, and traveling. She and her husband visited all 50 states, all provinces of Canada, many European countries, and most of the Caribbean islands.

They especially enjoyed cruising, taking 29 cruises.

Surviving are one son Steven (Connie) Lemon of Bourbonnais, grandchildren; Eric Lemon of Bourbonnais, Chris (Amanda) Gainey of St. Louis, Kara (Matt) Blanchard of Denver, CO and Nichole (Justin) Rogers of Littleton, CO. She is also survived by six great grandchildren, Annabel and Addison GAiney, Jonny, Jackie and Jonah Rogers and Lulu Blanchard; one sister Jewell (George) Zook of Jacksonville, IL one sister-in-law; Ruth Opperman of Lincoln, IL several nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Alan, her parents, a brother George Opperman, sister and brother-in-law Donnabelle (Harold) Pech and a nephew.

Emma Lou was a member of St. John United Church of Christ, Kankakee, where services will be held. Visitation will be at Schreffler Funeral Home, Kankakee Chapel Friday, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The funeral service will be Saturday, April 30, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at St. John United Church of Christ with Rev. Barb Lohrbach officiating. Burial will be at the Thawville Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Riverside Medical Center, St. John United Church of Christ or Hospice of Kankakee Valley.

Please visit Schrefflerfuneralhomes.com to sign Emma Lou's online guestbook.

Cemetery Details

Thawville Cemetery

Thawville, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **29**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Kankakee Chapel
1900 W. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-2421
<https://www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com/>

Funeral Service

APR **30**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. John United Church of Christ
1045 W. River
Kankakee, IL 60901

Tribute Wall



“ *Emma L Lemon*

February 03, 2023 at 04:30 AM



“ *Emma Lou reminded of the 3 Graces with her elegance and brightness; her inner beauty and good cheer; and her mirth and joyfulness. She has touched so many lives and was admired by who ever she met. My condolences go out to her loving family, I know that your Mother is now cradled in the loving arms of our Lord. You remain in my thoughts and prayers.*

Diane Siaroff

Diane Siaroff - April 29, 2016 at 07:33 AM



“ *Grace and peace to your family as you mourn Emma Lou's death, and give thanks for the big role she got to play in your lives, and you in hers.*

Nancy Goede - April 28, 2016 at 11:43 AM



“ *My condolences to Emma Lou's family. She was a lovely and kind lady and I was lucky to have known her through the Women's Board.*

Rebecca Schatz - April 27, 2016 at 09:56 PM

MH

“ Emma Lou handled her illness in her own quiet way, with dignity and confidence. Like the song, "she did it her way!" I always enjoyed helping her plan her travel for several years. She knew exactly what she wanted. Her study club programs were always some of the best! Her teaching skills were obvious. She led by example, and made a difference in many people's lives.

I will miss her, simply stated. There are continued prayers in my heart for her family.

Marsha Hill

Marsha Hill - April 27, 2016 at 08:22 PM

 Jody Brown

“ sending prayers and hugs at this time of loss
you are all in my thoughts and prayers

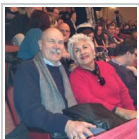


Jody Brown - April 27, 2016 at 08:23 AM

 Anita Joy Pickrel Monkus

“ Sorry for your loss, May God comfort your Family. Anita and Lorraine Pickrel

Anita Joy Pickrel Monkus - April 27, 2016 at 07:20 AM



“ My prayers and hugs are with each of you. My heart hurt at this loss tho' I know she and Al are celebrating their reunion. May God's peace and comfort fill you.



Mary Quiroz Thomson - April 26, 2016 at 07:35 PM

DE

“ *Debi Edmund And Pete Ellertsen lit a candle in memory of Emma L Lemon*



Debi Edmund and Pete Ellertsen - April 26, 2016 at 06:03 PM

DE

Emma Lou was such a lovely person and definitely became part of our family. We'll miss her!

Debi Edmund and Pete Ellertsen - April 26, 2016 at 06:05 PM

JG

“ *Julie Gerke lit a candle in memory of Emma L Lemon*



Julie Gerke - April 26, 2016 at 03:47 PM

JG

Dear aunt; beloved sister; devoted and loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Julie Gerke - April 26, 2016 at 03:49 PM


Laurie
Gilmore

We are so sorry for your loss she was a wonderful women... I know my mom will truly miss her..

Laurie Gilmore - April 27, 2016 at 07:39 AM

CL

Mrs. Lemon came to my Mom's visitation a year ago February, because Mr Lemon thought so highly of her. She shared what she was going through. Such a sweet, lovely lady. I am smiling, thinking of her and Mr. Lemon being together again! Deepest sympathy to her family!

Carol LaGesse - April 27, 2016 at 09:37 PM

DR

Emma Lou and Al were my God Parents, and I will always remember them for that! Both were such a fun and lively couple. I remember Emma Lou as a sharp and loving person that made a difference. While she may rest in peace, we will always remember the wonderful things she did for others.

Dwayne and Cheryl Robinson, Champaign, IL.

Dwayne Robinson - April 28, 2016 at 08:08 PM

EH

I am sorry I am unable to give my condolences in person. I enjoyed being Emma Lou's partner or a opponent at the bridge table for such a long time before I had to drop out of the group. My sympathy to your entire family. Elaine Holtzman

Elaine Holtzman - April 29, 2016 at 10:50 AM

PH

I knew Emma Lou through bridge and that's over 20- 25 years. We belonged to the same bridge group. She was the official scorekeeper of our bridge club and you couldn't ask for a more efficient person. To keep score, see to the. partnership lineup of 12 ladies (keeping them in line) make score corrections and still be nice, pleasant and enjoy a good laugh when she or someone else goofed playing a hand. I admired how she handled her illness and am glad I told her so. A lovely lady I shall miss seeing. My sympathy to her family. Pat

pat hartman - April 29, 2016 at 12:00 PM