



## Janet Carolyn Alleman

July 3, 1941 - October 5, 2024

Janet Carolyn Barker Alleman, 83, of Kankakee, Illinois, died on October 5, 2024. Janet is survived by her husband of 59 years, James M. Alleman, her two children John T. Alleman (Wiko) and Juliane A. Groth (David), and her five grandchildren Liane Groth, Adriane Groth, Jack Alleman, Catherine Alleman, and William Alleman. She is also survived by her sister Joan B. Basile (Anthony) and their three children, Paul Basile, Lynda Basile Flowers, and Michael Basile, as well as their children.

Janet Carolyn Barker was born on July 3, 1941, in Urbana, Illinois. She was the daughter of Thomas Barker Jr. and Margaret Pennell Barker. Janet's childhood home was the family farm northwest of Bondville, and she attended the Bondville Grade School. Janet graduated from Champaign High School in 1959 and was accepted as a James Scholar at the University of Illinois where she became a member of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority. Janet graduated in 1963 with a B.A. in LAS teaching of English. Throughout her educational career, Janet excelled in academics, music, and was active in many organizations. Her first teaching job was at Jefferson Middle School in Champaign, Illinois.

On July 5, 1965, Janet and Jim were married at the Bondville, Illinois United Methodist Church. Jim's Army career took them to various military bases around the United States until his retirement in 1977. Jim accepted the

position of Risk Manager at Riverside Hospital, and they moved to their current home in Kankakee, Illinois. Janet was an active member of the St. Mark United Methodist Church, the Kankakee Kultivators Garden Club, and was a Master Gardener. As their children grew older, she substitute taught in the Kankakee Public Schools and then she was a sixth-grade language arts teacher in Clifton, Illinois for over twenty years. She volunteered for Hospice of Kankakee Valley and various other organizations in the community. Janet loved people, her family, her students, and her friends. She had a talent for friendship and was always willing to lend a helping hand. She acquired and nurtured friends in every stage of her life. She will be greatly missed and remembered with love.

Memorial services will be at St. Mark United Methodist Church, 1200 W. Calista St. in Kankakee, Illinois on October 20 at 1:30pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Mark United Methodist Church (1200 W. Calista St, Kankakee, IL 60901) or Heifer International ([heifer.org](http://heifer.org)) in Janet's name.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

OCT **20**. 1:30 PM (CT)

St. Mark United Methodist Church  
1200 W. Calista  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 933-8621

# Tribute Wall

LB

“ It is heartwarming to read the wonderful comments of Janet’s former students, friends, and family and the impact she had on their lives. Why am I not surprised ? I first met Janet in September, 1953 when Jim, she and I started the seventh grade together. She was a perfectionist to the nth degree in everything in which she was interested. Janet was a brilliant student, earning a perfect straight “A” average in junior high and high school and named Co-Valedictorian of the Champaign High School Class of 1959 and a National Merit Scholar. She loved music and was the first chair flutist in the award winning CHS band and orchestra, winning first place soloist awards in every state competition in which she competed. Notwithstanding her outstanding academic and musical accomplishments, Janet was very humble and unassuming and a supportive friend to all. She set the bar very high for all of her classmates and we were all better for having her in our lives. The CHS Class of 1959 mourns Janet’s loss and extends our deepest sympathies to Jim.

Larry Bailey

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Larry Bailey - October 16, 2024 at 12:19 AM

AA

“ Absolutely one of my favorite teachers ever! I ran into her a few years ago and we were able to catch up on life. She was just always so kind and impactful in so many lives. I am so thankful I was able to tell her that in person.

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Angi Ahrens - October 12, 2024 at 01:11 AM

AN

“ Mrs. Alleman was a lady. Always, a lady. Some teachers you forget; others you remember. I never forgot Mrs. Alleman. A curious, educated figure in her own league. I never met anyone quite the same. At the ripe ole age of whatever we were in 6th grade, Mrs. Alleman and I had an intriguing conversation one recess. The kids were outside playing. I decided to stay in. So did she. Her infamous facial expression... “saying everything with my face not my words” sorta face...helped me know...don’t quit. carry on. the subject matter was deep. the whole exchange was life changing. after all, it was Mrs. Alleman we’re talking about. And if Mrs. Alleman wasn’t going to advise me to quit, well, no one was going to get in the way of my big ideas. Mrs. Alleman, those big ideas turned into a lifetime of unspeakable joy. and living! Thanks thanks thanks, Mrs. Alleman. And Thank You to her family for writing an obituary that captures the Beauty of Her.

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**anonymous** - October 11, 2024 at 08:31 AM

AN

..to clarify my post above, she was my teacher. English...no one knew it better. she was the English Queen. it’s been decades. i still remember the red ink. She didn’t just grade a paper. She critiqued every detail. I am not showing my writing skills here. This is all emotion. And I know you get it.

..if a student’s life is like building a house. she was focused on soil type, ground leveling and craftsmanship of the foundation. not wall colors and platinum drawer handles. A meat and potatoes thinker. Less dessert.

..She knew life would go on for us students past that 6th grade class. Even if we couldn’t see it. She put everything she had into teaching us what we didn’t know. It was not an easy class. Not at all. She set the bar so, so high.

And thank God she did.

Condolences to everyone near and far who knew her.

God bless Mrs. Alleman.

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**anonymous** - October 11, 2024 at 04:51 PM

MT

“ Sad to learn of Jan's passing. We have lost a kind, giving person who always had a smile for others. May God's peace and comfort fill the empty space in your hearts and may your fond memories bring smiles.



Mary Thomson - October 10, 2024 at 11:33 AM

MF

“ Mrs Alleman was always so nice. I remember her from school, her classroom she made it not only fun but educational. she will be missed.



Melissa (Barnhart) Filla - October 08, 2024 at 12:29 PM

SR

“ Jan was such a Special Special woman and friend. We met through the Kankakee Kultivators Garden Club and enjoyed many special times times together too numerous to mention. Her knowledge of gardenening and love of nature never ceased to amaze me. Always there when a helping hand was needed and in the planning of plantings in the Column Garden on the Museum grounds in Kankakee. Her Presidency in the club was lead with a determination to bring the club members together and she accomplished it in such a perfect manner which she had such a gift for in leadership. Family was everything to Jan a very dedicated Mom and Grandmother she adored each of them. Our dear friend will be sorely missed fly with the angels. 🙏❤️🙏

Sydney Rose-Churney - October 08, 2024 at 11:04 AM

DG

“ Janet Barker Alleman was the most wonderful Mother-Law, Mom, Nana, that anyone could ever ask for . She is my inspiration and light, and she was the most beautiful and loving person to all she met. Her light shines on in the lives of the children she taught at Clifton, all of whom were blessed beyond measure to have known her. I know her as Mom, and for nearly 29 years, I have had the honor of being married to her daughter, my best friend. Janet taught me many things, not the least of which was to laugh, to have fun, and to love with all my heart. Freely, she gave wisdom, knowledge, and an unconditional unshaking Faith and most of all Love. I will love you forever, until we meet again. For we mourn not as those who have no hope, but rather with the Hope of Glory. On October 5th, Mom entered into new Life, and was welcomed Home by the very Saviour whom she sang of so eloquently. Thank you, Janet for being my second Mom. I miss you with an aching heart, and with the Hope of Glory.

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David Groth - October 07, 2024 at 08:25 PM

J(

“ Mrs. Alleman was always a kind teacher who cared about all of us and wanted us to do well. Because of her, I still know my helping verbs: am, is, are, was, were, be, being been, has, have, had, may, might, must, can, could, shall, should, will, would, do, did, does. She taught me that around 1996. As an educator, she is someone that I will always admire. She had a lot of patience as a teacher and helped us learn to be our best selves!

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Jill Burdick (Sparenberg) - October 07, 2024 at 06:47 PM

JA

Jill- this is John, her son. That would make her so so happy. Thank you for sharing.

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John ALLEMAN - October 10, 2024 at 10:23 PM

DD

*Jim, may the God of all comfort who comforts us in all our affliction be very near you at this time of sorrow. Jesus conquered death! Eternal life is found through faith in Him! God bless you! Doris Dippel*

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**Doris Dippel** - October 10, 2024 at 11:44 PM