



## Jean Ellen Curlee

September 25, 1940 - June 14, 2021

Jean Ellen Curlee, age 80, of Bradley, passed away peacefully at her home on Monday, June 14, 2021 after a lengthy battle with COPD and asthma.

She was born September 25, 1940 in Astoria, OR, the daughter of Howard & Mary Paine Young.

She left this world surrounded by those who loved her including her ex-husband, Richard Wilhoyt of Bradley; one son, Roger Wilhoyt of Bradley; one daughter, Theresa Fujihara of Kankakee; one grandson, Steven Wilhoyt and his fiancée, Chelsea Baranowski and her sons, Joseph and Connor of Kankakee; one great-granddaughter, Evelyn Mae of Kankakee; one granddaughter, Heather Sopkin and her fiancé Andrew Leal of Bradley; and in her heart and thoughts always, one grandson, Christopher Wilhoyt of Paxton; daughter-in-law, Elaine Wilhoyt of Paxton; and great-grandchildren, Isabella and Benjamin of Paxton; and great-grandchildren, Xavier, Laila, and Kaija of Paxton; one sister, Helena Graves of Astoria, OR; and one brother, Joseph Young of Eugene, OR.

Jean is preceded in death by her father, Howard Young and her mother, Mary Ferne Paine Young; two sons, Richard Wilhoyt Jr. and Robert Wilhoyt; one granddaughter, Brandi; one infant grandson, Alexander; and one brother, Orvil Young.

She enjoyed passing her time with jigsaw puzzles, Scrabble, and watching the Chicago Cubs. She loved the ocean, walking the beaches, and painting seascapes.

Cremation rites will be accorded.

A memorial visitation will be held 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. on Friday, June 18, 2021 at Schreffler Funeral Home, Kankakee.

Memorials may be made to the family wishes.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

JUN 18. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Kankakee Chapel

1900 W. Court St.

Kankakee, IL 60901

(815) 932-2421

<https://www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Jean Ellen Curlee*

February 03, 2023 at 04:30 AM



“ *A note to high school classmates from one of her friends:*

*"What do you say when you know this is the last time you will be having a conversation with a classmate with whom the history is long and continued despite gaps of many years and picked right up again when you met.*

*I called Jean the day after she would have arrived into her family's arms.*

*She was so sweet, very short of breath and yet alert and glad to hear my voice.*

*There are no words to say good bye. And as time ran out, and as she became unable to speak, we simply said I love you, and go with God.*

*Each time I say goodbye to one of our classmates, a wee bit of me goes with them, glad I called, but an ache remains."*

*Jan G.*

John Irving - July 09, 2021 at 08:02 PM

Jl

“ Jean was a valued member of the Tillamook (Oregon) High School Class of 1958. During high school, she was active in our Radio Club, Christian Club, Thespians, Rainbow, FHA, acted in two plays and worked on five plays, among other activities.

A few days before she recently returned to Bradley, I received the following text message from her. "You got me John. I've been meaning to get in touch with you to let you know what I've been doing all these years. My yearbook photo said I would move to the beach and sell wind chimes. I've done that. the rest of the time was cleaning and painting gourds for bird-feeders or houses for them . I'll be flying back to IL In the next couple days to be with my family." I'm aware that several class members were able to share messages with Jean before she left Oregon.

She will be missed. Our class has provided a contribution to the THS Alumni Scholarship Fund in her memory. As one classmate shared, " She was such a sweet lady. She was always so kind to me." Rest in peace, Jean.

John Irving, Hillsboro, Oregon

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John Irving - July 09, 2021 at 07:35 PM

LJ

“ Mom was a person with a big heart and a firm belief in telling you right and wrong...My sister and I went shopping one day at the mall and bought some slime....when we got home we thought it would be funny to put it on the door knob so when mom came in she would get gooey ....well when mom got home we heard an terrible screech and then GIRLS!!!....we figured out real quick that was a bad idea. I loved mom with all my heart, she let me into her family and gave me a second family. God bless you all.

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Leilani Johnson - June 18, 2021 at 11:15 AM