



## Jean L. Zack

January 4, 1927 - May 28, 2025

Jean L. Zack, age 98, of Bourbonnais, passed away Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at her granddaughter's home with her family at her side.

She was born January 4, 1927 in Chicago, the daughter of Leslie & Rae Holumn Sparrey.

Jean had been an aquatic instructor at the YMCA for over seventy years. She loved reading and art and was a talented painter.

Jean was dedicated to her job and her family, especially her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

She enjoyed camping, traveling, and the ocean.

Surviving are one son, Rob Zack of Burleson, TX; two daughters, Eileen (Robert) Ward of Puyallup, WA and Jill (Frank) St. Paul of Kankakee; one sister, Martha Gerry of Orland Park; eight grandchildren; thirteen great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jean is preceded in death by her parents; two daughters, Kathleen Zack and Lynn Derby Shire; two sisters, Carol Stevenson and Rae Noonan; and one

brother, Leslie Sparrey.

Visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the 12:00 Noon funeral service on Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at Schreffler Funeral Home in Kankakee.

Interment will follow at Momence Cemetery in Momence.

Memorials may be made to the YMCA.

# Cemetery Details

## Momence Cemetery

E. 4000 N. Rd.  
Momence, IL 60954

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JUN 3.** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

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

## Funeral Service

**JUN 3.** 12:00 PM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ Sorry to share this so late but I figure it is better late than never! Miss Jean taught me the basics of swimming along with countless others and I am forever grateful to her as well as to her daughter miss Jill. She had a heart of gold and will be deeply missed. We took this picture my last day working at the YMCA as a lifeguard which also happened to be her birthday a few years back and thought I would share! My thoughts and prayers go out to the family of this incredible woman.



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**Michael Ryan** - June 14, 2025 at 05:31 PM

LB

“ JZ was a total sweetheart. She always asked about my family and how I was doing when I worked in the café at Bourbonnais Grove. My sincerest condolences to her friends and family. She'll never be forgotten. xo



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**Laura Banasiak-Wilkerson** - June 10, 2025 at 01:53 PM

DW

“ *Donna Witkoski lit a candle in memory of Jean L. Zack*



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**Donna Witkoski** - June 04, 2025 at 10:54 PM

PL

“ *Paula Lindner lit a candle in memory of Jean L. Zack*



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**Paula Lindner** - June 02, 2025 at 03:36 PM

MM

“ *Melanie M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jean L. Zack.*

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**Melanie M.** - June 01, 2025 at 08:43 PM

JG

“ *Joseph Giacchino lit a candle in memory of Jean L. Zack*



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**Joseph Giacchino** - May 30, 2025 at 03:01 PM

KG

“ Jean taught me to swim 60 years ago, she introduced me to her entire family including my best friend her niece Robin. She was a great friend to my mom and will be missed greatly. I am so glad I got to see her one last time last month.



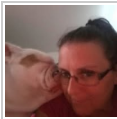
Kathleen M Godbout - May 30, 2025 at 11:10 AM



“ JZ was like my very own grandma. She was so loving and I could just sit with her for hours talking. I remember she would never let me do anything for her she wouldn't let me put her socks on or pack her laundry away. She was the sweetest soul and I am so blessed to have had her in my life. I love and miss u already my JZ



Ashleigh Koster - May 29, 2025 at 05:07 PM



My Gram was the most amazing woman, I was blessed to have her as my grandma and my sons great grandma she will be missed dearly.

Lisa Ward - May 29, 2025 at 06:06 PM

NR

*Way back when, Jean told me that if I wanted to swim in triathlons, I had to start by putting my face in the water and buying a pair of goggles and a swimming cap. She was so right!! Jean taught me how to do flip turns in the pool -- another aquatics skill she said I HAD to have. When we talked, she always called me, "Honey." It warmed my soul and made me feel loved. Jean, I hope the swimming pool in heaven is great, and the water's temperature is exactly the way you like it. The chlorine levels, too. Go get your laps in, girl, and be sure to wear your swimming cap!*

*Nancy J. Ruda*

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**Nancy J. Ruda** - May 30, 2025 at 01:53 PM

SE

*She taught my boys to swim and helped me through my Aches and pains with MS. I can still hear her laugh and talk. I hope she enjoys heaven.*

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**Sherri Eich** - May 30, 2025 at 02:05 PM

RP

*Beautiful lady right there. My condolences to all of you.*

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**Roberta Prince** - May 31, 2025 at 02:19 PM

CH

*I took Jean's "Terrified of Water" class for adults at the Kankakee YMCA back in the late 1980's. I was so impressed with her ability to teach me how not to fear the water and to learn how to eventually dive into the deep section of the Y pool and swim laps. She helped me find courage and confidence, and she was always kind and patient. May the angels lead her into heavenly paradise.*

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**Christine Huffman** - May 31, 2025 at 10:17 PM