



Rev. Jeanette E. Stevens

April 21, 1938 - April 29, 2020

Rev. Jeanette E. Stevens, 82, of Kankakee passed away at her home on April 29, 2020. She was born on April 21, 1938 to Edward and Aileen (Beaudoin) Gerretse. Jeanette married Robert R. Stevens on June 19, 1971 at First Baptist Church in Kankakee and he preceded her in death on October 11, 2009. She is survived by her step-daughter, Roberta Kay Tidmore of Pyatt, Arkansas and step-son, Rev. Brian Lee Stevens of Cherokee Village, Arkansas and her brothers, Gary Lynn (Linda) Gerretse of Kankakee, Dale Lee (Kimberly) Gerretse of Bourbonnais and sister, Diana Jean (Scott Hedditch) Gerretse of Orr, Minnesota. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and one brother, Ray Gerretse.

She was a 1956 graduate of Bradley Bourbonnais Community High School and then went on and got her Bachelor of Science in Education at Northern Illinois University in 1960 and her Masters in Education and Counseling in 1967 from Rosary College and Governors State University. She also went to Northern Baptist Seminary M. Division in Pastoral Care and Counseling.

Jeanette was a Brownie Scout, belonged to Girl Scouts of America, First Curve Bar Scout in Kankakee County. She was a Pro Marksman for the NRA, received the American Legion Award in 1956, Leader of 4H EC and AG Club, Delta Kappa Gamma International teachers honorary, President of Upsilon and Phi Chapters, a member of Delta Psi Kappa Internal Physical Education

Fraternity, Kappa Delta Phi, Education Honorary, Alpha Tau Alpha library science honorary, American Red Cross Instructor in First Aid, CPR and Water Safety and received the 30 year award for service. She was a life member of the Illinois Education Association and National Education Association, Bradley-Bourbonnais Education Association past president., Life Member of the National and Illinois Rifle Association and Honorable Mention Metal of Merit from Congressman George G. O'Brian. Jeanette was listed in Two Thousand Woman of Achievement in 1971 and in Who's Who Among Human Services. She was Past President of Nokomis Rotary and Emiritus Member of American Alliance for Health Physical Education and Recreation. She served as Waterfront Director at Camp Shaw-waw-naw-see, served on the faculty of George E. Thompson High School, St. Charles, Illinois and Bradley Bourbonnais Community High School and substitute taught at North School in Nokomis, Illinois.

Jeanette was an Ordained Deacon in the Central Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church, Ordained Elder in the Central Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church, retired from the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church, served as Youth Pastor at Bourbonnais Grace United Methodist Church, served Deselm United Methodist Church, Ritchey United Methodist Church, Kankakee Asbury United Methodist Church, Nokomis United Methodist Church, Saunemin United Methodist Church and Odell Community Church. She also served as supply at St. Marks, Filmore and Zion ECLA in Montgomery County and served as Night Chaplin at Kankakee Riverside Medical Center.

She also enjoyed reading, gardening, stamp collecting, candle making crocheting and knitting.

There will be a public memorial service post Covid-19.

Please sign her guestbook at www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Rev. Jeanette E. Stevens*

February 03, 2023 at 04:30 AM



“ *Remembering fondly of my time with Jeanette at BBCHS; she was the Librarian at the Time and I was a History teacher;.I developed a class on Illinois and local history and Jeanette helped me with the local part of it as she was from the area and knew the geography and history of Kankakee county and Bourbonnais TWP! Jeanette was a big part of BBCHS history !*

Dennis C. Bossinger

Dennis Bossinger - May 03, 2020 at 02:14 PM



“ *I was so saddened to hear of Jeanette’s passing. My late husband, Don, and I knew Jeanette mostly when our son, Matt, was involved in Asbury’s Youth Program years ago. She was the most fun-loving and so spiritual. We all enjoyed her interaction and keeping Christ always in our lives. Matt had fun times on many youth trips with Jeanette and am sure others from his “era” will agree! Jeanette will be sorely missed but am very sure she is at rest now with her Bob..*

🙏 (Judy Reiniche and family)

Judy Reiniche - May 02, 2020 at 03:05 PM

PL

“ You will definitely be missed. I much respect for you. Till we meet again.



Paul leach - May 02, 2020 at 01:54 PM

BN

“ Jeanette was such a caring influence in life. I've known her since BBCHS, where she worked with my Mom, Gwen Mifflin. She supported all my projects & interests. She invited us to attend AUMC where we married & raised 6 kids, who she also supported. It is an honor to have known, been loved by & eventually cared for Jeanette as her ICU RN! RIP Jeanette. Prayers of comfort to all who loved her. Beth Norwick & family & Gwen Mifflin & family.

Beth Norwick - May 02, 2020 at 11:03 AM

AN

Jeanette followed me as associate pastor at Asbury UMC in 1987. We had frequent occasions to visit, and I enjoyed her company very much. She was indeed a very warm, caring person. On one occasion, she loaned us her place in Cherokee Springs for our family vacation. Rest in peace, dear friend -- I will miss you! Dr. Alan Newhall

Alan Newhall - May 02, 2020 at 05:11 PM

PM

I became acquainted with Jeanette when she agreed to adopt "Fritz". I had inherited Fritz and it was going to be very hard for me to keep him since I was a caregiver for my husband. Through mutual friends Jeanette agreed to take him and a great "mom" she was She would even stop by my house for Fritz to visit. Other people wanted him but I chose Jeanette. A great decision that was. I never knew her as a pastor but feel sure she is with her Lord today as it seemed so apparent how devoted she was. A big thank you to Brent and Betty Phillips to be the substitute caregiver for Fritz.

s c

Phyllis Manker - May 03, 2020 at 09:26 PM

BK

I appreciated Jeanette for her knowledge that she shared so freely, She was a caring person who always listened and provided the answers I needed, I admired her strong faith in God that she lived out so clearly in her life,! Now she is enjoying her heavenly rewards and having a wonderful new life,

Brenda Kirts

Brenda Kirts - May 06, 2020 at 03:06 PM