



## Kathleen W. Ruch

September 30, 1929 - April 20, 2019

Kathleen W. Ruch, 89, of Kankakee passed away Saturday April 20, 2019 at her home. She was born September 30, 1929 in Chicago to Dr. Morgan and Madeline (Ratz) Williams. Kathleen married Charles E. Ruch Sr. October 14, 1950 and he died April 26, 2005.

She was a teacher for Kankakee School Dist. 111, a member of Asbury United Methodist Church, Ladies Parlor Class, Chancel Choir, Chancel Bell Choir, United Methodist Women, Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education Phi Delta Lambda, Kankakee Association of University Women and Finance Committee for Asbury United Methodist Church. Kathleen also volunteered at Riverside Medical Center and Asbury Thrift Shop and Asbury Church. She enjoyed cross stitching and going for walks. Kathleen received her bachelor degree and masters in Education from Olivet Nazarene University.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law; John (Diane) Ruch of Bourbonnais, 2 daughters and a son-in-law; Carol (Philip) Wylie of Jefferson City, Montana and Kathleen Kirkpatrick of Kankakee, 12 grandchildren; Morgan (Arlinda) Ruch, Benjamin (Katie) Ruch, Aaron Ruch, Ian Ruch, Spencer Ruch, Tristan Ruch, Noah Ruch James (Stacie) Looney, Johnathan (Amy) Looney, Courtney Ruch, Erin Kirkpatrick and Kyle Kirkpatrick, and 7 great grandchildren. Also surviving are 2 sisters; Joan Mueller of Arlington, TX and Adine (Keith) Kretschmer of Sequim, WA and many nieces and nephews. Kathleen was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, a son, Charles

Ruch Jr. a grandson, Jacob Ruch and a sister, Roma Abbott.

The visitation will be 4-8 pm Friday, April 26, 2019 at Schreffler Funeral Home, Kankakee Chapel and 9:30-10:30 Saturday, April 27, 2019 at Asbury United Methodist Church. The funeral service will follow at 10:30 a.m. Rev. Scott Henley will officiate. Cremation rites will be accorded after the service. Memorials may be made to Asbury United Methodist Church or Family Wishes.

Please visit [www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com) to sign her online guestbook.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **26**. 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/>

## Visitation

APR **27**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Asbury United Methodist Church  
196 S. Harrison  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 933-4408

## Funeral Service

APR **27**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Asbury United Methodist Church  
196 S. Harrison  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 933-4408

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kathleen W. Ruch*

February 03, 2023 at 04:30 AM



“ *Sorry to hear of Kathleen's passing. We send our condolences to her family.*



**Tilo & Debbie Guerra and Family** - May 04, 2019 at 03:58 AM



“ *Mrs. Ruch was my teacher a very sweet person. She would do anything to help anyone. I can't believe she is gone. May God continue to bless this family she will be missed.*

**katrina banks** - April 27, 2019 at 01:06 PM



“ *John, Diane, and family,  
Sorry for your loss, you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.*



**MaDonna Zasada** - April 27, 2019 at 02:14 AM

HJ

“Mrs. Ruch was my 4th grade teacher at Taft. It's funny, but you always remember the teachers that made a difference. She always engaged and challenged us with a positive grace. May her family and friends know that she was respected and adored by all of us. May she continue to bring warm heartfelt smiles to all of our memories of her and those golden days at Taft Elementary.



Hugh Janda - April 26, 2019 at 07:56 PM

BP

Kathleen was so very special to those of who knew and loved her. My condolences to each of the family members. May God be with each of you at this stressful time.

Beulah Pennell - April 27, 2019 at 03:09 AM

BN

Mrs. Ruch was such a wonderful person. I am so glad that I was able to see her the last time I was in Kankakee on a Sunday. I have memories as her as my Sunday school teacher back in the 60s. Guam UMC lifted the Ruch family up in our prayers yesterday.

Becky North - April 28, 2019 at 05:08 PM

NL

Prayers For ALL

Nancy Leonard - May 17, 2019 at 01:20 PM

MR

Kathleen Ruch was my 4th grade teacher at Washington School in 1963-64. I recall so much about her wonderful teaching ability. I also recall the principal calling her into the hall to tell her that our President had been assassinated. I never had the opportunity to thank her, but I wanted to thank her. I am sorry for the tragedy of her death. She lived a full good life. May she now rest in God's tender care, in the company of her loved ones, now all with Christ.

Marilyn Rittmeyer - August 20, 2024 at 01:54 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Schreffler Funeral Home** - April 26, 2019 at 09:44 AM



“ *I am so sorry I can't be there this weekend. Aunt Kaykee was always so kind and thoughtful She will truly be missed. All my love and heartfelt sympathies to our family.*



**Hugh Kretschmer** - April 25, 2019 at 09:33 PM



*I was friends with Kathy in high school . My heart breaks for all of you ..  
Diane Baumgartner Jensen*

**diane baumgartner jensen** - April 26, 2019 at 03:56 PM



*Rest in Paradise Mrs. Ruch. You taught me 5th grade way back in 1985. William Watson, III*

**William Watson, III** - April 26, 2019 at 07:20 PM



“ 110 files added to the album LifeTributes



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**Schreffler Funeral Home** - April 25, 2019 at 04:31 PM



“ It was always nice to look out into the congregation to see "the hat lady that loved Arby's!" I could always count on a warm greeting from Kathleen on Sunday morning. She was a big supporter of the music department, even when she physically felt that she could no longer participate in choir and bell choir. I am a substitute teacher, and she always wanted to know where I was subbing and if I'd run across any of her grandchildren in my classes. Kathleen, you will be missed! Jewel Ann Wiltfang

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**JewelAnn Wiltfang** - April 25, 2019 at 02:00 PM

MC

“ Kathleen was like a mentor to me. I had a classroom right across the hall from her classroom at Franklin(Proegler) school. There were many times I went to her for advice or to merely vent my frustrations. She was a terrific teacher and a really good teaching friend. My heartfelt sympathies go out to this family in their time of mourning. The last conversation I had with her was about a month ago at church. I went up to her and re-introduced my self as Mary Coriell, to which she replied "well you dont look like Mary Coriell" She always spoke her mind but never in a mean way. She was right, I certainly don' look like the person she knew in the 1970's. Prayers for your family.

Mary Coriell - April 24, 2019 at 07:38 PM



“ I always enjoyed the many long talks we had. Kathleen was always so encouraging.

Robbi Shaffer - April 24, 2019 at 12:57 PM

MT

“ Prayers for God's peace and comfort.



Mary Thomson - April 24, 2019 at 11:24 AM

SP

“ I always enjoyed it when she came to the office. She was so proud of her children and grandchildren. My heartfelt sympathy to the family

Sharon Perkins - April 24, 2019 at 10:27 AM

PL

“ With deepest sympathy, Jack Bays and Paul Long

Paul Long - April 24, 2019 at 08:58 AM

JM

“ The sudden sense of terror this brings to the family must be overwhelming. Prayers seem so little, but they are the only meaningful love we can share. With sadness, Jan and Fred Michela.

john f michela - April 24, 2019 at 07:40 AM

JS

Oh, the plans we still had, baby sister!

Joan, big sister - April 24, 2019 at 07:47 PM

AD

Always loved having all my sister here for Summer Solstice and the 4th of July. You will be missed!

adine - April 24, 2019 at 10:05 PM

TA

Carol and John, I am truly sorry for your troubles, may your mother rest well. Thomas Anthony

Thomas Anthony - April 25, 2019 at 06:01 PM