



Wanda Yohnka

October 11, 1927 - March 13, 2017

Wanda Yohnka, 89, formerly of Kankakee, passed away peacefully on March 13, 2017 at the Rosewood Care Center in Moline, Illinois. She is now spending eternity with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Wanda Lee Smothers Yohnka was born October 11, 1927, the daughter of Antoine and Estella Pelletier in Kankakee. She was a graduate of Kankakee High School in 1945 and attended Olivet Nazarene College where she studied to be a teacher. She married her first husband Lloyd Smothers of Xenia, Illinois in 1947. He preceded her in death in 1963.

For many years she worked in administrative support for Salkeld & Sons Sporting Goods when their store was on South Schuyler Avenue. She later worked in the personnel department of Kankakee School District #111.

Pursuing her dream of becoming a nurse, she enrolled at Kankakee Community College and graduated with honors, and obtained her Licensed Practical Nurse license. For several years she was responsible for ostomy and wound care patients at Riverside Hospital before retiring.

Wanda had a passion for antiques and doll collecting, and was one of the founding members of the Kankakee Doll Club. During the late 1960's and early 1970's she was a member of the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. She also adored her beloved Yorkie "Gizmo". She was a long time member of Immanuel Baptist Church.

Wanda is survived by her son and daughter-in-law; Stephen (Lynn) Smothers of Andalusia, Illinois, one brother, David L. Pelletier of Englewood, Florida;

and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her first husband Lloyd Smothers; her parents; and her eldest brother Dr. S. William Pelletier of Athens, Georgia.

Visitation will be on Friday March 17th from 4-7 PM, at the Schreffler Funeral Home, Kankakee Chapel. Funeral services will be at 10 AM Saturday March 18, at the Schreffler Funeral Home, Kankakee Chapel with Rev. Phillip Gardner officiating. Burial will be at Mound Grove Gardens Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Immanuel Baptist Church, and the Kankakee Humane Society.

Please sign her guestbook at www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com .

Cemetery Details

Mound Grove Gardens of Memory

1000 N Greenwood
Kankakee, IL 60901

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 17. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

MAR 18. 10:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Wanda Yohnka*

February 03, 2023 at 04:30 AM



“ *My sympathy and prayers are wil all the family. My mother was a Yohnka in the Kankakee area and I was just wondering if you could share with me how she had the same last name as my mother Lucille. Thank you, Kathryn DeYoung kdeyoung57@gmail.com*

Kathryn DeYoung - March 16, 2017 at 12:59 PM



She was formerly married to a Yohnka..

Steve Smothers - March 17, 2017 at 06:25 AM



“ *Aunt Wanda was a class act! She had such a great sense of humor. We will never forget her and her amazing collection of dolls!*

Love Dave and Keri

Dave pelletier - March 16, 2017 at 10:07 AM