



Emily Joy Fiala

February 22, 1941 - February 22, 2018

Emily Joy (Dougan) Fiala passed away on February 22, 2018 at 7:04 a.m. in Kankakee, IL. Joy was born on February 22, 1941 to John David “JD” and Hazel (Peters) Dougan in Elgin, IL. She grew up in Chebanse, IL.

Joy’s musical career included Choral Music Director at Morton High School in Berwyn, IL as well as being a music professor at Dickinson State College (Dickinson, ND), Parkland Community College (Champaign, IL), Ball State University (Muncie, IN), and Arkansas State University (Jonesboro, AR). She graduated from Morton East High School in Cicero, IL in 1959, Rosary College (Dominican University) in Oak Forest, IL in 1963, and DePaul University in Chicago.

Her life has been dedicated to being a mother and grandmother while demonstrating unconditional love. Her world revolved around her grandchildren and they loved her beyond words. She additionally loved teaching, music, reading, learning, and her Roman Catholic faith.

Joy is survived by her daughter Elizabeth (Fiala), son-in-law Matthew Kerns (Bourbonnais, IL), and three grandchildren Caden (10), Grant (8), and Jacob (7) Kerns. Additional surviving family includes Ron Fiala of Berwyn, IL, Jennie and Ellie Fiala, Marty Kerns, Audrey Fiala, many extended cousins, and childhood friends Sandy (Bruce) Stulik with Susan Joy and Barbara (Richard)

Kotlar. She also leaves behind the countless lives she positively impacted through her music and gentle spirit.

Joy was preceded in death by her mother-in-law Eleanor Fiala; her parents; aunt Ethel (Peters) and uncle Oscar Siggins (Chebanse, IL); and granddaughter Sophia.

She married Thomas J. Fiala on December 22, 1973 and was married for 36 years.

Memorial Mass will be held in the spring with final interment next to her parents in Chebanse, IL. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Emily Joy Dougan Fiala Music Education Memorial Fund... aka- For The Joy of Music! <http://www.gofundme.com/ForTheJoyofMusic>.

Cemetery Details

Cremation rites will be accorded

Tribute Wall



“ *Emily Joy Fiala*

October 08, 2023 at 04:39 PM



“ *I have always marveled at how Joy lived up to her name. She was truly a joy to know and brought joy into everyone's lives, whether it was through her upbeat personality, her kindness and compassion or her transferring her gift and love of music on to others. She will forever be alive in my wonderful memories and in my heart. The world has lost a loving, giving and talented woman, but Heaven has gained a beautiful Angel!
Loved you, Karen Rea Hornat*

Karen Rea Hornat - March 06, 2018 at 11:58 AM



“ *I am a childhood friend from Chebanse. Have many good memories of those years. Janice Carpenter Faulkner*

Janice Faulkner - March 06, 2018 at 09:45 AM



“ *An absolute beautiful woman. I enjoyed every moment I had with Joy. We taught together at A-State. She was always so kind, joyful, wonderful, and she truly cared about her students. She was an inspiration for me and someone who I still channel in my teaching. I am better for knowing you, Joy. Thank you and I will look forward to where your life influence sends me next!*

Tim Crist - March 05, 2018 at 11:42 PM

MS

“ *I will always remember Joy with warmth and fondness. She was such a loving and genuine person who made a lasting impression on all who had the pleasure of knowing her.*

Mary Ann Svach - March 05, 2018 at 10:10 PM



“ *My condolences to Elizabeth and her family.*

Bob Schneider - February 27, 2018 at 09:15 AM