



Geraldine Ruth Ritsema

January 16, 1934 - October 12, 2019

Geraldine Ruth (Coy) Ritsema, 85, of Kankakee, passed away peacefully at her home on Saturday, October 12, 2019 surrounded by family. Jerry was born on January 16, 1934 to Harvey and Lilas (Berger) Coy in Kankakee, IL. She spent her youth in Momence where she attended Momence High School and where she later married Nelson J. Ritsema on July 10, 1953, who preceded her in death. She and Nelson raised their four children in Kankakee. Jerry had an unwavering love for family, friends, Faith church (where she was a charter member), food, and fun, not always in that order. She loved music and was an accomplished singer. She enjoyed crafts, Yahtzee, beating Nelson at Rummy, Bunco, being "Aunt Jerry" to hundreds of kids at Vacation Bible School over the years, and her many, many friends. She never met a stranger she wouldn't invite home and feed. We will miss her laugh and her warm heart.

Jerry is survived by her four children; LuAnn (Edson Scudder) Ritsema of Charlotte, NC, Liala (George) Beukema of Chicago, IL, Jacqueline (Jerry) Kintz of Colorado Springs, CO and Richard (Erica Herkel) Ritsema of Kankakee, and seven grandchildren; Carrie Kintz, Tessa Beukema, Kalli Kintz (Larry Threlfall), Jesse Beukema (Monica Gilley), Isaac Kintz, Eve Ritsema and Blake Ritsema. She was preceded in death by her parents, her sisters, Beverly Balthazor and Burdell Marcotte, and her granddaughter, Carly Kintz.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, October 19, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. followed by a memorial service at 11:00 a.m. at Faith Church, 2400 Waldron Road, in Kankakee, IL. In keeping with Jerry's wishes, she will be cremated and interred with her husband at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Illinois at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the Vacation Bible School fund at Faith Church in Kankakee, to Hospice of Kankakee Valley, or to the donor's choice.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **19**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Faith Church
2400 Waldron Road
Kankakee, IL 60901

Memorial Service

OCT **19**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Faith Church
2400 Waldron Road
Kankakee, IL 60901

Tribute Wall



“ *Geraldine Ruth Ritsema*

October 08, 2023 at 04:39 PM



“ *It is with a sad heart we send our condolences for the family of Geraldine Rietsema. Always a smile and kind word, full of wit and humor she will be missed by so many. It is only by faith that we can endure these truly difficult times. Always remember the good times for that is how she would have wanted it.*
The Sherrill family

Matthew Sherrill - October 19, 2019 at 11:14 AM



“ *Vern and I send our condolences to the family. We have such fond memories of our time in the Faith Church as their Pastor and wife. We so appreciated their many and varied services to the church done while we were there and done with dedication and willingness. Jerry had an intuition about who could use a listening ear and caring heart so made herself available to many. So pleased to have known all of the Ritsemas.*

Linda and Vern Smith - October 18, 2019 at 05:46 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Geraldine Ruth Ritsema.*



October 18, 2019 at 12:54 PM



“ I grew up 2 houses down from Jerry and Nelly. They were both always so kind to us and treated us like we were their own. Jerry was a beautiful soul and will be greatly missed. The Brubaker and Fairfield families are praying for you all.

Nikki Brubaker - October 18, 2019 at 11:06 AM



“ Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Geraldine Ruth Ritsema.



October 17, 2019 at 09:46 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Geraldine Ruth Ritsema.



October 17, 2019 at 04:45 PM

LH

“ Jerry is, not was (she is alive with Jesus) a very special friend to my heart/soul who simply welcomed me into her family without any hesitation. I got to know her more every time I came with Jacki to visit with her mom which were a blessing each time!! It has always been a pleasure to stay with her every time I came because her home environment was very relaxing. I shall miss her cooking especially the Shepherd Pie!!! :o)
I love her dearly and am looking forward to seeing her someday.
Lynda

Lynda A Hargrave - October 17, 2019 at 02:19 PM



Dale and I had the joy of being in a Bible study at Jerry and Nelson's house along with our kids. Our kids grew up calling them Uncle and Aunt. We have so many precious memories of time spent with them, and will forever be grateful for the impact they had on our lives. Our sincere condolences to the family.

Dale and Barb Deyoung

Barb Deyoung - October 18, 2019 at 07:43 PM

VJ

Jerry and I were close friends growing up in Momenca. Many good times. My sincere condolences to the family. Your dear Mom was a gem.

Vicki Johnson, Colorado Springs

Vicki Johnson - October 19, 2019 at 11:22 AM

LV

My mom (Carole Ringfelt) sends her sympathy to the family. I remember Aunt Jerry and leading Bible School many summers. Her joy for the Lord was contagious and I am sure she is leading a choir in Heaven right now. God bless!

Lisa Ringfelt VanderSchaaf, New Lenox

Lisa VanderSchaaf - October 20, 2019 at 07:37 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Geraldine Ruth Ritsema*.



October 17, 2019 at 11:21 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of *Geraldine Ruth Ritsema*.



October 17, 2019 at 01:27 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of *Geraldine Ruth Ritsema*.



October 16, 2019 at 11:22 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of *Geraldine Ruth Ritsema*.



October 16, 2019 at 11:19 PM

JK

“ *The memories and warm wishes from my mom’s neighbors and friends since her passing have brought joy and comfort to my siblings and me. We are proud of mom and her life well lived.*

jacki kintz - October 16, 2019 at 11:10 PM