



Constance "Connie" Newkirk

November 10, 1947 - January 4, 2016

Constance Marie (Mates) Newkirk of Amber Township, Scottville passed away on Monday, January 4, 2016 at her home. Connie was born November 10, 1947 in Gratiot County, MI, to Carl and Ruth (Richards) Mates, and attended St. Louis schools, graduating with the class of 1965. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Education and Master's Degree in English from Central Michigan University, and began her teaching career at Mason County Central Middle School in 1969. Connie taught English and History, retiring after surviving a brain aneurysm in 1998. She was awarded the Scottville Optimist Club Teacher of the Year, Outstanding Teacher for the VFW Ladies Auxiliary, and her students admitted her to Who's Who Among American Teachers.

Connie was a member of the United Methodist Church of Scottville, the NW Michigan Stroke Support Group, the Mason County Historical Society, Project Read Northwest, and Battery D, 1st Michigan Light Artillery. She was also the historian for the West Shore Chapter of the American Red Cross, and volunteered for HELP Ministries.

Connie will be lovingly remembered by her husband O'Neil (Jim) Newkirk Jr., whom she married June 12, 1971 in Scottville, her son O'Neil III (Heather) Newkirk, her daughter Kerry (Chad) Krzymicki, her grandchildren Abraham and Gabriella Krzymicki, and Savannah and Cassidy Newkirk, her father Carl (Ima Jean) Mates, her sister Ruth Farrier, her brother-in-law William (Paula)

Newkirk, her sisters-in-law Susan (Bruce) Kelly, and Cynthia (Mark) Yenkel, and many nieces and nephews.

According to her wishes, cremation has taken place, and a Memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, January 9th at the Scottville United Methodist Church with her pastor, Rev. Jack Conklin, and her longtime friend Rev. Merritt Bongard officiating. Friends may meet with her family for a time of visitation on Friday evening from 6:00 – 8:00 at the Stephens Funeral Home in Scottville, and on Saturday morning from 10:00 am until time of services at the church.

Interment will be at Riverside Cemetery in Custer. Those who wish to remember Connie with a donation are asked to consider the Newkirk Family Education Scholarship at Mason County Central Schools, or Hospice of Michigan.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 8. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wyman Funeral & Cremation Services - Stephens Funeral Home

305 E. State St.

Scottville, MI 49454

(231) 757-3333

wyman-stephens@sbcglobal.net

<https://www.wymanfuneralservice.com>

Celebration of Life Service

JAN 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Methodist Church of Scottville

114 West State Street

Scottville, MI 49454

Tribute Wall



“ *Wyman Funeral & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Constance "Connie" Newkirk*



Wyman Funeral & Cremation Services - January 08, 2016 at 12:39 PM

AH

“ *We want to offer our deepest condolences to Connie's family. We live many miles away, but Connie has been the glue that kept us together. We will miss the notes, cards, and photos that she sent. We know that she was dearly loved by her family and friends and also know that she was welcomed into Heaven by Jesus who she loved and who loved her back. You are missed, Connie.
Allen and Nora Hanzel*

Allen and Nora Hanzel - January 23, 2016 at 01:31 PM

AM

“ *Coach Newkirk and family,
So sorry to hear of Connie's passing. Have many good memories from years ago, helping put up the ceiling in your new home, eating some(okay many) sloppy joes, and watching how she supported you in your many endeavors. you are a blessed man
You are in our prayers and thoughts. Al Moul ,one of the "choir boys".*

Al Moul - January 10, 2016 at 04:33 PM

KR

“ A funny story-

She's the only teacher I've ever had that sat all her students in chairs with no desks in the the middle of the classroom. I can't even remember why she did that.

i'll miss her.

Former 8th grade student Kristal Tisdale

kristal - January 09, 2016 at 09:46 PM

DS

“ *Connie was a favorite teacher of both of my kids and an excellent teacher working with a tough age group. In addition, she was a super caring and connected individual. What a loss to our community. Sorry I couldn't meet with the family but I'm in Arizona with my Mom at this time. Debby Saxton*

Debby Saxton - January 09, 2016 at 10:37 AM

SG

“ *I was an 8th grade language arts student of Mrs. Newkirk. She saw something in me that for many years I couldn't figure out. She inspired me to begin writing n years later I was publish as an author. She would sit behind her podium reading my night before work, she would smile her approving smile. I have since written more then 8,000 poems, now 8,000 reasons why I appreciate whatever it was that she saw that day. My heart goes out to the Newkirk family.*

Samantha (Cory) Griffin - January 09, 2016 at 08:09 AM



“ *Health Nut Basket was purchased for the family of Constance "Connie" Newkirk.*



January 08, 2016 at 09:42 PM

 Lisa
Dibble

“ *My deepest condolences to the family and friends of this sweet lady. Professor Newkirk was my government teacher and how I grew to love them both. Good people. I am here with willing arms, heart and ears if you need anything. Please let me know how I can be of help to you at this time.*

Lisa Dibble - January 08, 2016 at 02:44 PM

BR

“ *We knew Connie through the Stroke Support Group in Scottville. Don (who is also a stroke survivor) loved to tease Connie and make her laugh. He has aphasia and cannot talk, but Connie always seemed to "know" what he was saying. She was secretary of the Stroke Support Group for many years. Connie was a very special friend and lady and we will miss her. Our deepest sympathy to Jim and family. Our love and prayers, Don and Bev Riggs*

Beverly Riggs - January 08, 2016 at 02:30 PM



“ 17 files added to the album Life Tributes



Wyman Funeral & Cremation Services - January 08, 2016 at 12:30 PM

DO

“ We were lucky to have Connie as a teacher for our children and a friendly neighbor. She always had a smile and a friendly greeting. A lovely lady. She will be truly missed by many people. Our very deep sympathy to Jim and their family. Donna and Ed Sanders

Donna - January 08, 2016 at 10:40 AM

JK

“ Connie and I graduated together. I read all the wonderful things she had done in her lifetime and the many people she touched and it does not surprise me at all. I remember her as a quiet friend who had the the most gorgeous smile and the most positive attitude. I am truly sorry she is gone. I know she will be missed by so many people but that your memories will live forever.
Janice Kilborn
Harbor Springs, MI

Janice Kilborn - January 08, 2016 at 08:39 AM

BG

“ *Becky Gerhart lit a candle in memory of Constance "Connie" Newkirk*



Becky Gerhart - January 08, 2016 at 07:12 AM

MA

“ *She had a uniquely wonderful way about her. I knew of her long before she was my teacher. And I have seen and talked with her on several occasions in the years since. It is much easier for me to list the teachers I liked than the ones I didn't because the list of the ones liked is pretty short. Mrs Newkirk will always be one of my favorite teachers and ladies. She was a very special person who made me feel like I was someone special. I didn't ask her too many questions but I sensed her health had deteriorated in the last year or so. Wouldn't have known it to talk to her though. It has been my privilege to know her. Thank you Mrs Newkirk for all you were and all you did. You live on in all those you've inspired*

Matt - January 07, 2016 at 08:40 PM

PS

“ *Dear Jim, We am so sorry to hear about your wife. Our prayers are with you.*

*Gayle and Pat Steele
Former Head 8th Michigan Medical*

Pat Steele - January 07, 2016 at 08:00 PM

GB

“ I met Connie when our church received a letter from her for the United Christian Women, which was a group of woman from local churches that collected different items each month to help those less fortunate. We had some nice conversations when she would either stop and pickup the items from my church or I would drop them off at her home

She was a very special woman who filled in the gaps when needed so nobody would go without. She will be greatly missed.

Connie, I look forward to seeing you in heaven.

Gloria Beckman

Gloria Beckman - January 07, 2016 at 04:22 PM

KA

“ I'm so sorry for the loss of such a beautiful woman. Growing up with Kerry, I used to call their house often. I can still hear the sound of Mrs. Newkirk's voice as she answered, "Newkirks, Connie." :) Praying God's peace and comfort for all of you.

Karin - January 07, 2016 at 01:51 PM

JS

“ I don't personally know Connie.or Jim but I would like to thank them both for being such an influence on my grandson Drew and his family I know he loves and respects you very much, thank you again prayers to you and your family

Jeanne Skinner - January 07, 2016 at 09:02 AM

RG

“ *Jim and family
Although I don't know Connie personally, all of my 10 kids do. Jim used to pick up one of the kids for school everyday. Mark mentioned yesterday about driving Connie and the trailer at the U.P. during one of their class trips, Connie was pregeant at the time. All That Connie went through with her sickness shows she was a tough gal. Our prayers will continue for your family. The Glovers*

Ruth Glover - January 07, 2016 at 07:40 AM

MB

“ *Sincerest sympathy to all. Thinking of all of you from deep in Alabama*

-Michael Bergman

Michael Bergman - January 06, 2016 at 08:33 PM

DR

“ *I volunteered with Connie at White Pine Village and her caring and help showed me a delightful and caring person. I am glad that she came into my life. She never judged a person, but was very kind and helpful. I will truly miss her.*

*Darlene Roedig
Scottville, MI*

Darlene Roedig - January 06, 2016 at 04:52 PM

DE

“ Her smile and the caring person will be what everyone remembers of Connie.

May God Bless the family and may he give them strength to get through these grieving times.

Prayers to you All

Diana

Diana LeLugas Engfer - January 06, 2016 at 03:09 PM



“ I knew Connie though my husband Martin Vanderhoof. I'm glad I had the chance to get to know her over the last 2 years. She is a kind woman and was at peace with whatever plans God had for her.

Kristie Vanderhoof - January 06, 2016 at 09:03 AM

LG

“ Kerry, I am so sorry to hear about your mom's passing. She was a wonderful lady and 8th grade teacher. I'm praying for you and your family.

Laura Gregones

Laura E Gregones - January 05, 2016 at 06:27 PM

DT

“ So sorry for the loss of a very beloved member of your family. I had the privilege to being one of her students in Jr. High, and a friend as an adult. I will Pray for peace and strength for your family in this time of great sorrow.

Denise Barnett Taylor
Grand Haven, Michigan

Denise Barnett Taylor - January 05, 2016 at 05:48 PM