



Kathleen J. Apotheke

April 17, 1946 - February 10, 2021

Kathleen Jean Apotheke was born on April 17th, 1946 to Jack and Henrietta VanDyken. She was the eldest of 6 siblings: Jack (Cathy) VanDyken, Bette (Dale) Dyksterhouse, JoAnne (Mark) Dunlop, Connie (Ray) Winfield, and Fred VanDyken (deceased). The VanDyken family lived in many locations due to Jack's military service. Kathleen graduated from Kaiser Slaughter American High School in Germany in 1964.

Kathleen is survived by her beloved husband of 50 years Frank Apotheke. Frank and Kaye met in Colorado Springs, Colorado while Frank was on military leave and Kathleen was visiting her family on a break from college. Kaye earned her Bachelor of Arts from Northwestern College in 1968. They married quickly, madly in love, on August 8th, 1970 and settled down in Kalamazoo, MI. They lived in many different houses (19!) throughout their marriage; Frank built the large majority of the homes. Kaye loved planning and decorating the new houses with Frank through their many moves. Frank and Kaye enjoyed playing competitive card games with friends and family and they traveled many places together, including Alaska, Europe, South America, and all over the United States.

Kathleen was a brilliant and accomplished woman. Her intelligence, strength, kindness, and poise were her trademark qualities. She taught high school English in several different schools throughout her career. Her passion for

literature was evident to all of her students. She even made grammar fun! Kathleen earned a Master's of Arts from Western Michigan University in 1993. Kathleen advanced her career in education by serving as an assistant principal and later an assistant superintendent of schools. She positively impacted many people throughout her career as an educator. Kaye's laugh and smile were genuine and enjoyed by all of those around her. Kathleen was a devoted servant of Christ and ministered to many individuals during her life. She and Frank were very active in their church and had many friends through Christian fellowship. She was secure in her faith and looked forward to her afterlife with Jesus.

Frank and Kathleen were blessed with four exceptional children. Kathleen was very proud of their children and often said that having children was the best decision she and Frank ever made. Jacqueline (Colin) Martin, Richard (Beth) Apotheker, Julie (Michael) Smalley, and Benjamin Apotheker. 13 grandchildren were fortunate to call Kathleen Nana. Hannah, Devin, Kathleen, Jillian, and Axel Martin, Kayla, Anna, and Carys Apotheker, Harrison and William Smalley, Amelia and Claire Wynalda, Grace Welter. Kathleen adored being with her family and felt it was a precious gift from God.

Kathleen passed away peacefully on February 10th, 2021, after a battle with leukemia.

A Memorial Service will be held for Kathleen at 1:00 pm on Sunday, February 14th, 2021 at Faith Fellowship Church in Irons, MI. A light lunch will be served following the service in the church fellowship hall. All are welcome to attend.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 14. 1:00 PM (ET)

Faith Fellowship Church
8889 W Six Mile Road
Irons, MI 49644

Tribute Wall

KT

“ *Kaye was my very special friend. From having coffee on a Winter morning at her house to card games full of laughter and sharing love of our grandchildren! She was so beautiful and always wore her pearles. Her kindness was felt by all who knew her. I know God is holding her.*
Karrie Thomas ❤️❤️

karrie Thomas - February 15, 2021 at 06:37 PM

CW

“ *My family loved Kaye! Very happy, that we were able to spend the day with her, in Michigan in 2019. Phil 4:13. Craig and Anne Westerhof*

Craig westerhof - February 14, 2021 at 08:04 PM

BD

We love this beautiful women and will miss her every day. Don Van Dyken loved her so very much and felt she was as close as could be to be the sister he never had. I loved and admired this precious lady the moment I met her. Heaven is blessed to have her. Our pain is helped knowing she is in the arms of Jesus Christ. Prayers and love to Frank and the entire family! We love you all!!

Becky And Don Van Dyken - February 14, 2021 at 09:33 PM

JS

My mom was the best. I will miss her every single day. Julie

Julie Smalley - February 16, 2021 at 11:30 AM

HP

We had a very nice but short visit with cousin Frank and Kaye in Smithers on their way to Alaska. May God comfort Frank and all the family.
Henry and Ann

henry and Ann Penninga - February 20, 2021 at 06:46 PM

CV

I haven't talked to Frank and Kaye in many years, I always enjoyed Kaye when we went to church together at Westwood CRC, and as our children went to school together at Kalamazoo Christian. Sympathy to your family.

Connie Vanderslik - February 25, 2021 at 12:13 PM