



Kathlyn Marie Dobias

May 19, 1920 - October 25, 2014

Strength, devotion, faith, artistry, and especially love are some of the many ingredients blended together in the life of Kathlyn Dobias. Whether she was patiently raising her six children, tenderly leading the students in her classroom, making a home with her husband, or sharing her strong faith, Kathlyn's love for others always shown brightly.

Following the end of World War I in Europe and the beginning of the "Roaring Twenties" Kathlyn Marie blessed the lives of Ervine Carl and Hester Evelyn Arletta (Rogers) Pankow when she entered the world on Wednesday, May 19, 1920 in Detroit.

Kathlyn grew up in Roseville, a northwest suburb of Detroit, and began school at age 7, graduating from Roseville High School with the class of 1939. She began working as a telephone operator in Detroit until her family moved to Mason County in 1942 where she returned to education and attended County Normal School. Kathlyn had spent many summers and weekends in Mason County through the years visiting her grandparents. On one of her visits when she was 16, she attended a local dance and noticed a handsome young man playing the accordion with the band "The Hog Scrapers." Jim Dobias caught her eye as she thought his music was romantic, and with the coaxing of her family, they were introduced. On October 2, 1943 they committed their lives to each other at St. John's Lutheran Church at Pelton's Corners and began a

journey filled with love and adventure that would span nearly 70 years.

Jim and Kathlyn were blessed with six children, Karen, James, Lorna, Linda, Matthew, and Mark, and raised their bustling family on their dairy farm just north of Scottville. Kathlyn loved her role as wife and mother, caring for her family. She was always the host for family holiday gatherings, cooking and baking all day in preparation for the celebrations. As the children grew and were all in school, Kathlyn decided to return to school as well. She attended Central Michigan University and earned her Bachelor's Degree in Education, graduating in 1961. She began her career substitute teaching for the Mason County Central Schools, and went on to teach elementary and special education for Ludington Public Schools, mostly at the South Hamlin and Franklin buildings, retiring in 1982. As an active member of St. John's Lutheran Church, and a charter member of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Scottville, Kathlyn shared her faith as a teacher for Sunday School and Vacation Bible School for many years.

In retirement, Kathlyn rarely was idle, working in her garden, growing and sharing beautiful flowers, showing her artistic talent in her crafts, pottery, and quilts, or wintering with Jim in Lady Lake, Florida which provided the opportunity to meet many new friends.

The foundation for Kathlyn's character was her faith in God. She was devoted to her family, her husband, her God, and her church. Kathlyn was involved in the Bible study at church, and she and Jim looked forward to sharing devotions every day, even when they moved to Sherman Oaks Manor in 2008 and later to Oakview Medical Care Facility in 2011. Her beloved Jim preceded her in death on February 2, 2013. Kathlyn was also preceded in death by her brother Ervine, and her sister Florence.

Kathlyn Marie Dobias reunited with Jim as she entered into glory on Saturday, October 25, 2014. She will be greatly missed by her children, Karen Rogers,

and Lorna Dobias, both of Scottville, James (Mary) Dobias of Ludington, Linda (Thomas) Andresen of Cary, North Carolina, Matthew (Le'An) Dobias of Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, and Mark (Patricia) Dobias of Allegan; 11 Grand children, Blake (Kristy Lambert) McCleary, Ryan (Reyla) McCleary, Lori and Greg Dobias, Bryan Dobias (fiancée, Chelsi Clanton), Kellie (Clay) Coffey, Tanya (Keith) Merchant, Christian (Amanda) Andresen, Courtney Andresen, Emily and Elyssa Dobias; five great-grandchildren; her sister, Evelyn Battige of Newaygo, sisters-in-law Loretta Pankow of Ludington, Joan Dobias of Scottville, and Charlotte Dobias of Cheboygan.

Funeral services will be held for Kathlyn at 11:00 am on Thursday, October 30, at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Scottville with Rev. James Schroeder officiating. Burial will take place at Sugar Grove Cemetery. Friends may meet with her family for a time of visitation on Wednesday evening from 6 - 8 p.m. at Wyman Funeral & Cremation Service - Stephens Funeral Home in Scottville, as well as one hour prior to the service at the church. Those who wish to make memorial contributions are asked to consider the Mason County Central Educational Foundation or Our Savior Lutheran Church.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **29**. 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>

Visitation

OCT **30**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Savior Lutheran Church
765 West US Highway 10
Scottville, MI 49454

Service

OCT **30**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Savior Lutheran Church
765 West US Highway 10
Scottville, MI 49454

Tribute Wall



“ Wyman Funeral & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Kathlyn Marie Dobias



Wyman Funeral & Cremation Services - October 28, 2014 at 06:06 PM

BL

“ We were so lucky to have spent so much time with our Grandparents, and have them around for so long. I have so many fond memories of spending time with them at the farm and then in later years at the manor. The grandkids were so lucky to have an entire dairy farm to run around in and explore, as well as basements, attics and camper trailers :) . There were always cows, cats, dogs and horses around...we had a lot of fun naming cows and discovering a new crop of barn kittens every year. We never had to work too hard around the farm besides the occasional stacking of hay bails or getting paid to find potato bugs and tomato worms in the garden. Grandma was always making big meals and we certainly had our meat and potatoes! We were spoiled with fresh vegetables and raspberries right off the bushes. We were never hungry and leftovers lasted for days. We would try to watch Thanksgiving football as long as we could until she made us turn it off :) and actually be social at the dinner table, which is a lost art sometimes. I am thankful for the dozens and dozens of family dinners at that large dining table, I cant remember ever seeing her out of the kitchen, except for the many, many games of Euchre. Grandma was a hard working gal. She sent us birthday cards as long as I can remember, well into when most of us were in our adult years...she always remembered. She had a lot of kids and grandkids to care for. We always had picnics, beach days and trips to House of Flavors. We were lucky to be so close to the beach and the state park. As Chris stated in his post, they always had photos of us out and about and the picture of Lori and I at MSU must have stayed on the fridge for 15 years. I think Grandma just liked the memories...so why take them down :)

She will be greatly missed and I will always remember the endearing way she would yell "Jim!" when she needed my grandfather :). Rest in peace Grandma, you greatly deserve it.

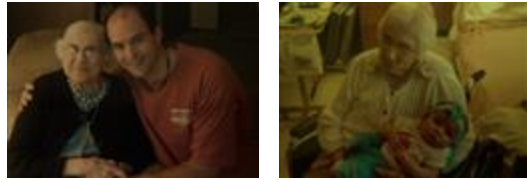
Love

Blake

Blake - October 31, 2014 at 02:12 PM



“ 2 files added to the album *Kathlyn Dobias*



Christian Andresen - October 31, 2014 at 07:06 AM

BT

“ *Mrs. Dobias was a real blessing to all the beginning teachers she inspired. I was one of those student teachers in the fall of 1966, fifth grade at Franklin School in Ludington. Classroom management doesn't come from a textbook, it comes from my wonderful mentor, Kathlyn Dobias. My most sincere sympathy goes out to her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I loved going to school every single day of my teaching career. Now that I have retired we have returned to live in Ludington. How nice it is to drive past Franklin School and remember Mrs. Dobias!*

So sorry for your loss. May your memories of Kathlyn bless you always.

Betty Jean Tabor

LHS Class of '63

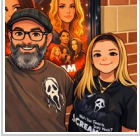
Betty Jean Tabor - October 30, 2014 at 06:53 PM

CC

“ *Connie Clifton lit a candle in memory of Kathlyn Marie Dobias*



Connie Clifton - October 30, 2014 at 06:15 PM



“ 4 files added to the album *Kathlyn Dobias*



Christian Andresen - October 30, 2014 at 01:50 PM



“ I have so many wonderful memories of my grandparents that it’s hard to pick just one to write about. Instead I will mention how blessed I was to get to spend much time with them at the farm house when I was much, much younger and we lived in Michigan. When we moved far away to the South we didn’t get to visit quite as often, but our time with Grandma and Grandpa included trips back to the farm house in Michigan as well as visits to their place in Lady Lake, Florida. After we moved to North Carolina and once I finished school, my mother and I began making annual trips to visit Grandma and Grandpa in Michigan at Thanksgiving time (breaking news: Michigan is cold in November...). Eventually those trips were no longer to the farm house, but instead were to Sherman Oaks. There we got to enjoy seeing Grandma and Grandpa interacting with their fellow residents and the staff. I got to personally experience Grandma and Grandpa winning money at Bingo (I was not so fortunate), and got to witness them playing cards as well. Though the venue changed, visiting my grandparents was always a very special time for me. It was made even more special the last couple of times I was in Michigan as my wife and kids were able to spend time with Grandpa before he passed, and most recently in July of this year, visit with Grandma before she passed. I am so thankful that Amanda and Tylor and Molly got to meet my grandparents so they can at least get some context for a lot of the crazy stories they will hear us tell now and in the years to come. Grandma, I love you and miss you very much. I am so glad that you are once again with Grandpa, now in a much better place. On a final humorous note, I want to point out that Grandma always had pictures of her grandkids on her refrigerator at the farm house. The picture of me that she chose to display on her fridge was my 5th grade school picture, which is easily one of my 2 or 3 worst school pictures ever. I asked her about this several years ago when she was still at the farm house, and she said, “I like that picture.” Whenever I see that picture (I have not been able to get rid of all copies of it...LOL!), I will always get a chuckle knowing that was Grandma’s favorite picture of me....

Christian Andresen - October 30, 2014 at 11:01 AM



“ 6 files added to the album *Kathlyn Dobias*



Christian Andresen - October 30, 2014 at 10:30 AM

WT

“ Aunt K was always one of the sweetest people - such a happy disposition no matter what. Although, I'm still convinced that there was some great wonders upstairs in the farmhouse when I was a little kid. She and Uncle Jim had this siamese cat that was really mean that would sit on the stairs going upstairs, so I NEVER got to go upstairs (I was a bit afraid of that cat). So, while I would sit with the adults in the living room talking or in the dining room playing cards or in the kitchen eating snacks or in the barn looking for cats, I was secretly always wondering what treasures were hidden upstairs! In the last few years, I still loved how every time I visited Aunt K, she might now have known who I was - but she would still light up and smile because she did know I was family :) I hope you, Uncle Jim, Grandpa, and Aunt Florence are having a grand old time in heaven!

Wendy Tackett (great niece)

Wendy Tackett - October 29, 2014 at 08:54 PM

TM

“ Some of my favorite memories growing up were spent with Grandma and Grandpa Dobias. Grandma used to help me bake-- and she always let me help cook dinner. She tried to teach me to crochet...but I didn't have the patience to stick with it. I always planned to wear her wedding dress at my wedding (she knew this), but then I got married sooner than expected, so my plans didn't work out. I still dream all the time that I'm staying at the farm house--just like no time at all has passed. I miss you Grandma!

Tanya Merchant - October 29, 2014 at 08:28 PM

LP

“ What a celebration there will be this year in Heaven on Nov 6 when your Mom organizes the birthday party for your Dad and they can dance to the music of The Blue Skirt Waltz. Wish I could be there, too. Aunt Ret

Loretta Pankow - October 29, 2014 at 07:07 PM

BL

“ 3 files added to the album Kathlyn Dobias



Blake - October 29, 2014 at 11:18 AM

RS

“ To Mark and the rest of Dobias family,

Sincere condolences. Many fond memories of our days in Scottville. Your mother and your family are surely a part of them. Wow 94 years. What a great life touching so many for so long. Best wishes to all.

Ron & Joan Saya

Ron Saya - October 28, 2014 at 01:08 PM

MA

“ Molly wanted to light a candle for great grandmother.



Molly Andresen - October 27, 2014 at 08:26 PM

SS

“ I have many great memories of my godmother, Aunt Kathlyn. Time spent at the farm as kids, having Aunt K for one of my teachers in Junior High school and how graciously my husband was welcomed to the family by Uncle Jim and Aunt K.

I will always remember Aunt K's smile.....still so welcoming when I'd visit her at Oakview.

I have truly been blessed by loving them and being loved by them.

Shelley (Pankow) Switzer(niece)

shelley switzer - October 27, 2014 at 03:07 PM

PB

“ When we were kids, we loved to go to visit Aunt Kathlyn and Uncle Jim. The farm was a wonderful place and the huge breakfast Aunt K. would make many mornings was awesome! In the summer we'd get to stay for a week or two, and caring for the animals and playing basketball in the barn were two of my favorite memories.

I'm not sure how Aunt K and Uncle Jim managed with so many kids hanging around, but I know we always felt welcomed and we never got bored. We always helped with chores (not sure how very helpful "city kids" were) and can still remember getting roused from a soft bed to help drive escaped cows back into the field.

Great memories will keep her alive in my heart forever. She'll be missed so much, but she's perfect now...no pain, and a memory as clear as a mountain stream. She was a remarkable woman and was well loved. She was a blessing and an irreplaceable part of our family. I cherish her memory.

Peggy (Battige) Bennitt, niece

Peggy Bennitt - October 27, 2014 at 10:40 AM

MA

“ *Mary lit a candle in memory of Kathlyn Marie Dobias*



Mary - October 27, 2014 at 09:15 AM