



Diane K. Burkhart

January 22, 1953 - September 10, 2023

Diane K. Burkhart, 70, of Evansville, passed away Sunday, September 10, 2023, at Deaconess Hospital Gateway Campus surrounded by her immediate family. Diane was born January 22, 1953, in Evansville to the late Starlus E. “Tom” and Catherine (Hartig) Buttry.

She attended West Heights Elementary, Helfrich Park Middle School and FJ Reitz HS, graduating in 1971. In High School she was in Future Teachers of America and several other clubs. She knew at a young age that she wanted to be a teacher because of the influence of her 2nd grade teacher. She chose Ball State University because it was known for its education program. She was selected as a freshman to enter a curriculum that put students into the classroom beginning their first year. It also allowed students to teach in the Great Britain school system. While in England she lived with a host family. She has remained in contact with them annually ever since the experience. Following the classroom experience she toured Europe for 4 weeks before returning to campus. She graduated in 1975 with her BA. and later obtained her MA from Indiana State University. She began her teaching career at an elementary school near Crawfordsville, Indiana. She met her future husband during her Senior year at BSU. He was the President of the Student Education Association where she served as Secretary. They married in 1976 and moved to Evansville. She continued her teaching career at West Side Consolidated Catholic Schools retiring in 2013. Her many students adored her, and her

colleagues loved working with her. They appreciated her humor which helped them enjoy each teaching day.

She took dance lessons through her senior year, played intermural basketball in HS, was a member of the National Honor Society and competed in the Indiana State Miss FTA pageant. She was extremely organized in her professional and personal life.

She loved her family, and it was important that her sons have the opportunity to experience extracurricular activities. Both participated in numerous sports teams and were in music programs including marching band, orchestra, and honors groups. She was a member of the PTA and belonged to the booster clubs of the activities her sons were involved with.

Diane was a life member of St. Paul's United Church of Christ where she once served as Chairman of the Christian Education Committee. She pledged Alpha Phi sorority at BSU, was a member of Alpha Delta Kappa teacher sorority, Posey County Retired Educators, Evansville Retired Teachers, Big Blue Boosters Director, and VFW Axillary. She also enjoyed photography of her family and travel. She began collecting Wedgewood Pottery after visiting the factory in England during her college experience. In retirement she also began acquiring other collectables and antiques.

Surviving Diane are her husband of 47 years, Wendell Burkhart; two sons and their wives, Brian and Chelsea Burkhart and Bradley and Julie Burkhart, as well as four grandchildren, Makayla, Lex, Lucas, and Lincoln Burkhart. While her health would allow, she attended as many activities of her grandchildren as possible.

Her cancer journey began in 1996 when her sons were 14 and 10. She continued to be heavily involved with them and continued teaching after

completing chemotherapy. The cancer remained dormant for 18 years before returning as stage 4 metastatic breast cancer. She returned to St. Louis for treatment in 2014 where she had her original breast surgery. The cancer advanced slowly in her bones until 2022 when it moved into soft tissue. She entered hospice care on September 8th.

Funeral services for Diane will be held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, September 16, 2023, at Pierre Funeral Home, Rev. JD Rose and Rev. Jeff Long officiating. Entombment will follow in Memorial Park Cemetery.

Friends may visit with the family from 3:00 until 7:00 PM on Friday at Pierre Funeral Home, 2601 W. Franklin Street.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Santa Clothes Club, 4000 E. Division Street, Suite A, Evansville, IN 47715, Reitz Big Blue Boosters, P.O. Box 6272, Evansville, IN 47719-0272 or to St. Paul's UCC, 7700 Middle Mt. Vernon Road, Evansville, IN 47712.

Condolences may be made online at www.pierrefuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Park Cemetery

2200 Mesker Park Drive
Evansville, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **15**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Pierre Funeral Home
2601 West Franklin Street
Evansville, IN 47712
(812) 423-6471
info@pierrefuneralhome.com
<https://www.pierrefuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

SEP **16**. 10:00 AM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Pierre Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Diane K. Burkhart*



Pierre Funeral Home - September 13, 2023 at 01:54 PM

RB

*To the family of Diane, I have known Diane for so many years from St. PAUL's through Reitz and from sharing the same profession of teaching. She will definitely be missed. I am presently traveling and will be unable to attend her services. Please know, though, that I will be thinking of her and you.
Ruth Zimmerman Baize.*

Ruth Baize - September 13, 2023 at 06:44 PM

DD

*Wendell and Family, you are in my thoughts and prayers as I remember friendship with you and Diane at St. Paul's and with Diane in school. She was a wonderful, strong lady, who will be greatly missed.
Darlene Dycus*

Darlene Dycus - September 14, 2023 at 12:39 PM

EL

Prayers and thoughts today as you lay to rest your wife, mom, grandma, and friend. The "A Group" enjoyed Diane! She will be missed and remembered always. 🎀

Ellie - September 16, 2023 at 11:18 AM



“ *Pierre Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Diane K. Burkhart*



Pierre Funeral Home - September 13, 2023 at 12:04 PM

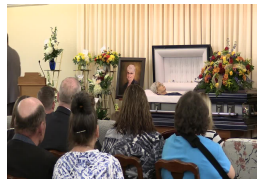
KS

“ *Wendell and family, I was sorry to hear of your loss. Diane taught my children, and I also enjoyed having her as a colleague. May God bring you peace during this difficult time.*

Kristine Schroeder - September 19, 2023 at 10:12 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Funeral Service*



Pierre Funeral Home - September 16, 2023 at 04:26 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Diane K. Burkhart.*



September 14, 2023 at 10:20 AM

SA

“ Wendell, Brian and Bradley, I am so sorry to see this news. I just loved working and being a friend to Diane. She was an excellent teacher and she loved both of you so much. Wendell, know that heaven awaits and her reward is great. You have been so faithful to her through all the struggle. All of you are in my prayers.
Sister Bridget

Sister Bridget Arnold - September 13, 2023 at 04:58 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Diane K. Burkhart.

September 13, 2023 at 02:39 PM



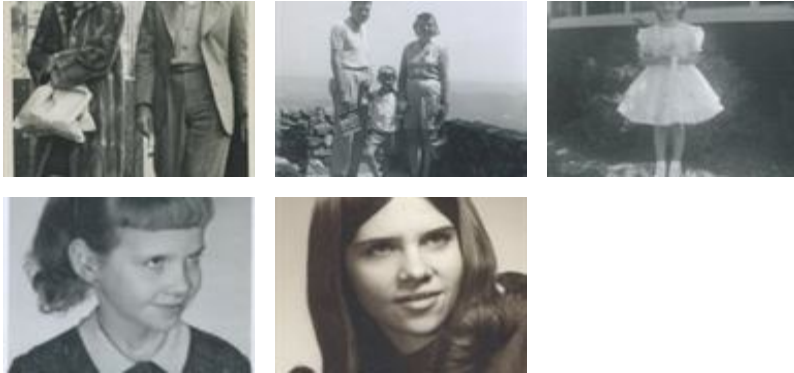
“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Diane K. Burkhart.



September 13, 2023 at 02:39 PM



“ 167 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Pierre Funeral Home - September 13, 2023 at 12:45 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Diane K. Burkhart*.



September 13, 2023 at 08:20 AM



“ *Your Light Shines* was purchased for the family of *Diane K. Burkhart*.



September 12, 2023 at 08:17 PM

LM

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this very difficult time. Her deep love for her family was reflected in her long and courageous battle which allowed her more years to be with all of you. She was an inspiration and I will miss her. Lynn Marino*

Lynn Marino - September 12, 2023 at 06:19 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Diane K. Burkhart.*

September 12, 2023 at 06:02 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Diane K. Burkhart.*



September 12, 2023 at 06:02 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Diane K. Burkhart.*



September 12, 2023 at 11:12 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Diane K. Burkhart.* ”



September 12, 2023 at 04:03 AM