



Jean Carol Roach

January 16, 1948 - May 4, 2026

Jean Carol (Davidson) Roach, 78, passed away suddenly of natural causes Sunday, May 3, 2026.

Jean was born on January 16, 1948, to the late Earl C. and Nell F. (Sykes) Davidson at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. Jean grew up in Rosewood Heights, Illinois. She was a member of the National Honor Society and graduated from Roxana High School in 1966. Many of her classmates (including the “66 Girls”) became lifelong friends.

Jean attended Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville (SIUE), graduating with a Bachelor of Science from the Education Division in 1970. She was hired by the Alton School District as a primary school teacher and spent the next 36 years doing something she loved. Jean’s warmth and fantastic sense of humor made her a perfect fit for teaching “little people.” She was often approached by her former students to reminisce about their time spent together in first grade and were so touched by the fact that she too remembered them—recalling small personal details about their time spent together decades before. In 1994, Jean went back to SIUE and graduated with a Master of Science in Education, and further achieved a Master’s Plus 30.

Though Jean loved her role as a teacher, her life truly revolved around her 2 children—Derek, born in 1974, and Kristin, born in 1977. She gave her children everything she had—love, time, guidance, patience and fortitude...as well as the BEST Halloween costumes EVER.

Jean retired in 2006. Visiting and spending time with her 3 grandchildren brought her much happiness. While trips to Spain, Alaska, and throughout the country brought her new joys, she also deeply appreciated spending time with her many friends, whom she considered family.

Jean's humor, intelligence and warmth will be missed by colleagues, friends, and family.

Jean is survived by her son, Derek A. Roach (Sara); her daughter, Kristin E. Moran (Rich); her grandchildren Jules, Sabrina, and Alexander Roach; 2 sisters-in-law (Judy and Carol); 5 nephews and grandnephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Craig V. Davidson.

No services are scheduled.

Please send your thoughts and prayers to all those Jean left behind, and please celebrate her memory with lots of laughter, love, and, of course, hors d'oeuvres. Gent Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Additional information and online guestbook may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

SY

“ I met Jean a few years ago through my cousin Brenda Sancamper. She was so much fun to be around and had some great, funny stories she shared with us. My condolences to her family and prayers for the days ahead. She will be missed by so many. She was one of my sweet Alton friends whom I will always cherish.

Sue Yarbrough - Yesterday at 11:42 PM

JS

“ Condolences to all of Jean’s family! So glad she got to live a full life with her family and friends! She will b missed at the ‘66 dinners and Friday breakfasts. She was a long time friend who loved everyone!
💔💔💔😭

Janis Stahlhut - Yesterday at 07:39 PM

DH

“ My Sincere Condolences to Your Family as You Grieve. Thoughts and Prayers 🙏🙏🙏 as You Mourn Your Mother and Grandmother. My Family lived next door to the Davidson Family in Rosewood Heights. Jean and I attended K-6th at Rosewood Grade School , Junior High and High School together. She was a Wonderful Neighbor and Dear Friend ❤️ Rest Easy Jean

Donald Hofgren - Yesterday at 05:29 PM

JC

“ I am so sorry to hear of Jean’s passing Derek, Kristin and family. I loved hearing her unmistakable , wonderful laugh. I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers.

Judy Clark - Yesterday at 05:15 PM

SM

“ I really don't know what to say. Some of my favorite high school memories include Jean. We traveled hundreds of miles in my '52 DeSoto, named Charlie, and most of those miles were between Blocks and Spotlight. Jean was smart and funny, and she was a good friend. I hope she knew how much she was loved and how much she will be missed. As long as I have my memories, Jean will always be with me. My heartfelt condolences to Derek and Kristin

Sandy Mayhugh - Yesterday at 03:47 PM

JB

Sorry to hear of your mom passing. Butch and Judy Bond. Lived across the street on Plainview Drive.

Judy Bond - Yesterday at 06:18 PM

MD

Derek and Sara, all of us here at BCBSA were so sad to hear of your mother's passing. After reading her beautiful obituary, it is easy to see what an amazing woman she was - and also explains many of the same qualities that we all admire and enjoy in Derek, and how deeply your mother loved all three of your children. May God bless you, your mother, and your children.

Mary Kay Dudley - Yesterday at 07:29 PM