



Judy Kay Thompson

June 7, 1949 - March 24, 2026

Judy Kay Thompson, 76, passed away at 11:46 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at her home. Born June 7, 1949 in Alton, she was the daughter of Paul Godfrey and Eva (Mandorca) Fortschneider. On November 21, 1969 she married Larry Lynn Thompson at St. Mary's Catholic Church. He survives. From the deep love Judy and Larry have shared over the past nearly 57 years, to their dedication as educators in local schools, their commitment to their church and Rotary, their enjoyment of cool music and cruising in classic cars, and the warmth of their longtime friends, Judy and Larry truly knew how to appreciate life. Above all, it is their family that has always been at the center of everything they do, bringing them joy and purpose.

Judy shared her love for education through working at St. Ambrose School in Godfrey from 1978 until she retired in 2013, where she taught Kindergarten for many years and later computer classes for all grade levels. From the early days of playing Oregon Trail on two computers for the entire school to a full computer lab where students worked on Kid Pix, Marble Blast and Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego. Rumor has it, if you wrote WWJD (What Would Jesus...not Judy...Do) on the top of your tests, you could get extra credit. And she was known for always having mints on her desk, much to the delight of her students! She loved running into past students and hearing about their lives and the stories they remembered from the classroom.

She was also a member of the Alton Water Ski Club where she performed ski shows and served as Show Director. An accident while water skiing in 1983

nearly left her paralyzed, but God had other plans. While it was an incredibly challenging time in her life, her example of perseverance and faith inspired those around her. She eventually worked her way back into the classroom where she would continue teaching and being involved in the lives of her children and extended family.

Along with her husband, she is survived by a daughter, Jennifer Lynn Weiner (Scott) of Godfrey, a son, John Warren Thompson (Stephanie) of Nashville, TN, and five grandchildren, Garrett Weiner (fiancé Kaitlyn Coles), Lauren Weiner, and Allie Weiner, Lillian Thompson, and Caroline Thompson.

Judy was so proud of her children, their involvement in various sports, clubs, and activities through high school and later their achievements in college and in life. But, ask her about her grandchildren and hopefully you pulled up a chair to hear those proud stories, too! She and Larry tried to catch as many games, concerts, recitals, tournaments, and events as she could between Godfrey and Nashville and in towns in between. If you were her friend on Facebook, you know Judy loved to share current and past photos of family and friends, reliving the memories and making new ones.

Also surviving are two sisters, Patricia Bracht of Godfrey, and Margaret Dunn (Richard) of Alton. Along with her parents she was preceded in death by a sister, Betty Lou Scoggins and a brother-in-law, Donald Bracht. Judy shared so many good times with her siblings and other family, her groups of friends from grade school, her church friends, other grandparents she shared a bleacher with at sporting events, and those she met and befriended along the way. Judy's family especially thanks those who kept in touch and looked in on her, made a call, sent a card or text the last few months.

For friends, past students and others who knew her, join the family on Friday, April 10, 2026, for a Prayer Vigil at 3:45 p.m. followed by a visitation until 7:00 p.m. at Gent Funeral Home in Alton.

A Memorial Mass will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, April 11, 2026 at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Godfrey. Father Steve Janoski will officiate. Burial will be at St. Patrick's Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to

the Judy Thompson Scholarship fund at St. Ambrose School www.saintambroseparish.org/memorials. Online guestbook and information may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Prayer Service

APR 10. 3:45 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home & Cremation Services
2409 State Street
Alton, IL 62002
(618) 466-5544
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

Visitation

APR 10. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home & Cremation Services
2409 State Street
Alton, IL 62002
(618) 466-5544
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

Memorial Mass

APR 11. 10:00 AM (CT)

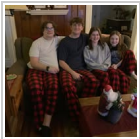
St Ambrose Catholic Church
820 W Homer M Adams Pkwy
Godfrey, IL 62035
(618) 466-2921

Tribute Wall

DC

“ *John and I send our deepest sympathies. Judy and I looked forward to birthday parties so we could see each other and chat as devoted grandmothers. I will forever cherish those memories.* ”

Doris Clayton - April 11 at 08:10 AM



“ *16 files added to the album mayhew photos* ”



Judy Mayhew - April 10 at 05:00 PM

KR

“ *Our deepest sympathies to Larry and all of Judy's family.* ”



Kris & Theresa Rosentreter - April 09 at 12:27 PM



“ Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Judy Kay Thompson.



April 08 at 09:55 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Judy Kay Thompson.

April 08 at 09:55 PM



“ Ms Thompson was my kindergarten teacher at St Ambrose 38 years ago. She was one of the most kind hearted, memorable teachers I had my entire life. I remember vividly how she made everyone feel comfortable and enjoy their time together. Later in school, she was our computer teacher and had us convinced laser discs were the next big thing....haha. After growing up and moving away for work, it was always a joy to run into Ms Thompson on trips home and her caring spirit never diminished. She was always genuinely curious how I was and what St Ambrose friends I kept in touch with. It was especially amazing to see her meet my son on a few of these trips. You could tell she was honored to play a part in her students lives and successes. I cannot begin to guess how many lives she touched during her time as a teacher but we are all very thankful and blessed for having had the opportunity for her to influence the people we became.

Patrick Morse - April 07 at 04:44 PM

BG

“ Brent, Heather, Brady & Annie Gustafson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judy Kay Thompson.

Brent, Heather, Brady & Annie Gustafson - April 07 at 10:36 AM

BG

“ Brent, Heather, Brady & Annie Gustafson purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Judy Kay Thompson.



Brent, Heather, Brady & Annie Gustafson - April 07 at 10:36 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Judy Kay Thompson.

April 04 at 08:53 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Judy Kay Thompson.



April 04 at 08:53 AM

SW

“ Always remember Judy at Camping on the Gulf. When she came to play cards or dominoes she would always bring treats for us. Miss you Judy. May you rest in peace. Sharon Wovoris

Sharon Wovoris - April 01 at 11:34 AM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Judy Kay Thompson.



April 01 at 09:28 AM

LL

“ Larry, Me amd Larry are so sorry for your loss of Judy. We had many talks on the phone about Donny Mandorcà. I will pray for you and your family.
Lisa and Larry Lucker

Lisa Lucker - March 31 at 10:54 PM

PL

“ I knew Judy through Rotary. We always connected at meetings. We also connected through our many phone conversations. especially as they were preparing to move, since we had moved to a senior home a year ago. We discussed ideas to help with the process. In a Christmas note (which I received about March 6, postmarked Dec. 8!) she said they love their condo....should have moved sooner! I called her then, and we talked about moving and health issues. We had a great conversation; little did I know how sick she was because that did not come up in the conversation. I will miss our phone conversations and seeing each other at meetings. She was a loving person who was so proud of her family. You have our sympathy. Keith and Phyllis Lape

phyllis lape - March 30 at 09:43 PM

TE

“ From St. Patrick's until now, she referred to it as “a friendship forever!” Some of us were fortunate enough to be with her last November. Sharing stories and laughs one last time. Little did we know that God had plans to call Judy home. She will be waiting for all of us. Rest in peace, dear friend, until we meet again.

Toni Eichorn - March 30 at 06:34 PM

BH

Judy was my St. Pat's friend and running buddy. We shared some fun adventures as kids, someone odd "man" out now and then. Of course, it never broke the strong bonds that lasted for 70 years. Judy was the first to text everyone when she knew I was coming to town, enabling us to share our St. Pat's adventures and beyond. I am grateful for her kindness and thoughtfulness and will miss her.

Barbara Hatch - March 30 at 07:35 PM

KR

Judy and I were life long friends beginning at St. Patrick's grade school in 2nd grade. She had a fun and daring personality. Friendship was very important to her. After moving away 42 years, we continued our friendship. Every card or note was signed "friends to the end".

Returning home nine years ago, has been such a blessing to spend time with such a dear friend.

In all the years knowing Judy, she never complained or wanted help even though her accident many years ago, left her disabled, she persevered.

Judy was a blessing to know and a wonderful example of what love, loyalty and friendship is all about.

"Friends to the end" dear Judy. I will miss you.

Kathy Reilly

Kathy Reilly - March 31 at 09:13 AM

KS

Mrs. Thompson had a heart of gold. She was the kindest and most caring person everyone. I was lucky to know her many years and my girls were blessed to have her at St. Ambrose. I know she loved following me on Facebook and keeping up with my kids. She would always post the sweetest comments! I loved watching her through the years with Jen and her family.....she loved her family and grandkids and was so lucky to have an active role in their life. She will be missed by so many. Thinking and praying for all of you during this difficult time.

Katie Stobbs - March 31 at 09:22 AM

ME

Not a day goes by that I do not think of my dear friend, Judy. We became instant friends at LCCC pool and that initial conversation led to many others year after year as we discussed a gamut of topics. We played dominoes together and that was always great fun. I will most miss our early morning phone conversations where she would always tell me she was on her 2nd cup of coffee then I knew I could keep her on the phone a little longer. Judy was so considerate of others, and I admired her so much for being such a good person. Yes, "Friends to the end" Judy. Miss you so.

Mitzi Erthal - April 01 at 04:42 PM