



Kay Ellen Voigtman

September 19, 1940 - January 19, 2024

Kay Ellen Voigtman, age 83, of Saline, Michigan, a beacon of grandmotherly warmth and wisdom, passed away on January 19, 2024 following a short, but courageous, battle against cancer. Throughout her treatment, she maintained her dignity and humor assisted by frequent visits from family and dear friends. The eldest child of Kenneth and Geneva Vallem, Kay was born on September 19, 1940, in Davenport, Iowa. Given the strong bond with her siblings, she loved to share stories about growing up with her sister Janice and her brother Gary. Kay spent much of her youth on her grandparents' farm in Oskaloosa, Iowa, where she developed a lifelong passion for fresh food, home cooking, knitting, and sewing. Countless mittens, scarves, sweaters, and hats knit by Kay's creative and determined hands will be worn and cherished forever. Kay, recognized by friends and family as a gifted seamstress, could never pass by a fabric store without going in. She loved making garments; it is even possible that you still might find a 1970s plaid leisure suit with a label that reads, "Handmade by Kay"!

Kay's life was a tapestry of love and laughter. She met and married her college sweetheart, Ronald Voigtman, while attending Buena Vista College in Storm Lake, Iowa. They were married for 64 amazing years. From the Great Plains, they moved to Saline in 1965, where together they raised their four children: Cindy, Jon, Jane, and Chris. From Girl Scouts to Cub Scouts to PTA to Sunday School, Kay enjoyed leading and organizing events for her children. Through her active involvement, she quickly found life-long friends in

the community who remained vitally important to her.

In addition to being a loving mother and wife, Kay had an adventurous career; having honed her personal sales skills in the neighborhood through Avon and Tupperware, she soon made the leap to advertising sales at the Saline Reporter. In a great surprise to her family, she also made a late career move to become a flight attendant, where she enjoyed flying around the globe to quench her thirst for travel.

After retiring, her home was filled with the endless parade of pitter-patter from her beloved grandchildren: Nathan, Chelsea, Kirby, Annalee, Hayden, Vaughn, and Bode, and her five celebrated great-grandchildren. As her grandkids have entered school, college, and career, she was the most vocal cheerleader for their interests in music, sports, academics and accomplishments.

Rarely could you find her without her precious four-legged sidekick, Ginger, unless Kay was at the Rec and Aquatic Center, where she loved her peaceful time in the pool.

Kay will be desperately missed by her devoted husband Ronald, her children: Cindy Voigtman, Jon (Terri) Voigtman, Jane (Kevin) May, and Chris (Tarra) Voigtman, her loving sister Janice, her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. She will also be missed by her countless friends who always kept her company, including Kathy, Bill and Barb, Jim, Susan, Scott, and so many others.

We will honor Kay's last wish to gently celebrate her life on a sunny day this spring with family, friends, favorite music, and food. Throughout this celebration, we will share our best stories and fondest memories of the incredible impact she made on our lives and in the community. Once we set a date, we will happily share it with those who are interested in joining the remembrance. To leave a memory you have of Kay or to sign her guestbook please visit www.rbfhsaline.com

Tribute Wall

AM

“ Kay always had a smile for all of us as we enjoyed exercising in the pool at the Saline Rec Center together. She blessed my life by her cheer and warm ways and she is greatly missed. I am thankful to have known her. May her legacy live on, Andrea Maddock

Andrea Maddock - January 24, 2024 at 06:41 PM

LK

“ I always enjoyed seeing Kay when she came to see her sister Jan in Poulsbo. I am thinking of all of you and feeling thankful I knew her. Linda Keeler

Linda Keeler - January 24, 2024 at 05:28 PM

MC

“ I will always remember Kay fondly from when she and Ron came to Long Term Care at Greene County Medical Center in Jefferson Iowa to visit his mom (and Earl!) with doggoes in tow. I always had a little bit of a sense that she didn't take any crap and I did my best (most times) to honor that. I imagine she fought valiantly. Godspeed, Kay Voigtman!!

Mary Cates/Lashinski - January 24, 2024 at 05:03 PM



“ Dear Cindy and Family,

I am saddened to see you've lost your beautiful mother. What a wonderful and long life she lived. Hoping that the great memories created help sustain you during the difficult days ahead. Prayers, kind thoughts and hugs headed your way.

Carter Bishop

Carter Bishop - January 24, 2024 at 06:59 AM

TK

“ To say that Kay was a gem was the ultimate understatement. She was a treasured friend whose love of life was infectious. She also possessed a sense of humor that was of the one-of-a-kind variety, sometimes salty and sarcastic, yet always laced with good-hearted laughter. In fact, I can still hear her laugh echoing through the once sacred offices of *The Reporter*, where at various points seemingly half of Saline faithfully toiled. Fittingly, her obit was a written work of art, painting a portrait of a life especially well lived and deserving of a special place of honor. May she rest in peace.

Tom and Jesse Kirvan

Tom Kirvan - January 23, 2024 at 01:13 PM

JV

Thank you for your eloquent words. Your steadfast friendship always meant so much to my mom. She often said that her days at the Saline Reporter were some of the best of her career, where she made deep and lasting friendships in the community. Your thoughtful wisdom and compassionate approach made an indelible mark on her life. We appreciate that.

Jon Voigtman - January 23, 2024 at 08:48 PM



“ I was shocked and saddened to hear about Kay's passing. We worked -- and played -- together at the Saline Reporter newspaper in the early 1980s; and though we haven't been in close touch since, I remember those years, and Kay, so vividly that it's hard to accept that it's been 40 years. I always knew that if we were to meet in person again, we'd be talking as if we'd never been apart. Kay was such a warm presence in any gathering, and her generosity and dedication to family were second to none. We'd barely met when she agreed to sing a parody I wrote of "Nuttin' for Christmas" at the Reporter holiday party -- it's one of my favorite photos and memories of a friend who'll remain in my memory always. Deepest sympathy to the family.



Gail Slaughter - January 23, 2024 at 01:08 PM

GR

“ I met Kay when our kids Jon and Trixie were in the same class and we'd help out in the classroom. I re-connected with her in the pool at the aerobics class and we shared many of our fond memories from that time. She was such a free spirit, always with a smile and laugh to lift your spirits. My thoughts and prayers for the family she has left behind, may their hearts be filled with many memories.

Gayle (Byers)Rogers

Gayle Rogers - January 23, 2024 at 12:27 PM

RC

“ I will never forget seeing Kay in the Saline Reporter office, stopping in to say hi and talking with Tom Kirvan. I didn't know her when she worked there, but I will always remember her enthusiasm for the community and friendliness. My deepest condolences and prayers to her family.

Renee Lapham Collins - January 23, 2024 at 12:01 PM

GS

“ Kay will be missed very much. I got to know her in the water aerobics class at the rec center. She was always positive and smiling and I looked forward to seeing her every week. You have my deepest condolences. She was a lovely lady.

Genny Siefker - January 23, 2024 at 09:56 AM

JC

“ Oh, I will miss seeing Kay and her cheery face at the pool in the Saline Rec Center. She was always a ray of sunshine. Fondly, Janet Corona

Janet Corona - January 23, 2024 at 09:12 AM

EC

“ Oh, dear. We are so sorry for your loss. Kay was one of the loveliest, funniest, most endearing souls we've had the privilege to call friend. We are far less rich without her. She will be missed terribly. Hugs and love to you all. Jan Kuhl & Ed Stapleton, NWA flight attendants, ret.

Ed Stapleton, retired coworker - January 23, 2024 at 07:39 AM

LL

“ Kay was the best neighbor and friend to my folks Barb & Bill, my sister, and me. All the energy, love and attention you could wish for in Saline, and a delightful visitor out here in Seattle. But let me share a couple of very personal remembrances and thank yous for Kay. I credit Kay in particular, plus Ron and their kids, for my sarcastic sense of humor, forged in their living room and dinner table after the school bus dropped us at her house. Also, Kay landed a job for me at the Reporter in high school, which gave me great opportunities and introduced me to great people. I carry Kay with me always. Best to Ron and the extended Voigtman family.

Liam Lavery - January 22, 2024 at 10:39 PM

JV

Thank you for your kind words and memories shared Liam. My mom absolutely cherished her time with your parents, you and Liesl. The Lavery wisdom was always an integral component in helping understand or shape the complexities in, as well as lighter side of, life. We truly appreciate the devotion in the Voigtman/Lavery friendship.

Jon Voigtman - January 22, 2024 at 11:46 PM

JM

“ I'm so sorry for your loss! Please know that the Smith family is sending lots of love and condolences to the whole Voightman family. Kay was a great friend to our mother Norma, my Girl Scout leader, made my clothes for a year in middle school and babysat Brad when he was young. So many connections! I know that she and Mom are together at a coffee shop in the sky with Stephen enjoying a good chat!

Julie (Smith) McElmurry - January 22, 2024 at 06:15 PM

JV

Thank you Julie. It is comforting to think that there may just be such a coffee shop for kindred spirits to once again meet up! So very kind of you to share your memories of my mom and the wonderful Smith - Voigtman connection. It makes me smile to remember all the great times that we shared together.

Jon Voigtman - January 22, 2024 at 07:22 PM

KS

“ *As a married-in member of the Kirvan clan I had the pleasure of Kay's company many times over the past 20ish years. She was always so welcoming, quick with a smile, laugh, and was just a joy to be with. I'm so sorry to hear of her passing and my condolences on your loss. Karrie Stanley*

Karrie Stanley - January 22, 2024 at 05:34 PM

CB

“ *She could light up a room in a heartbeat! Her laugh was so contagious. And her love for family was the glue that kept her going. Sending much love and hugs to the Voigtman family. Cheryl and Charlie Beard*

Cheryl Beard - January 22, 2024 at 03:34 PM

JV

Thank you for your kind words and warm thoughts.

Jon Voigtman - January 22, 2024 at 04:17 PM

NA

Kay was always there for me along my recovery journey. You could always be yourself with her. She brought out the best in all the lives she touched. I feel so fortunate to have known her. I will miss her every day.

Nan Kirvan

Nan - January 23, 2024 at 08:42 PM