



Kathryn Ann Larkin

June 16, 1945 - October 29, 2023

Kathryn Ann Larkin (Westin) passed away on October 29, 2023, following a brief illness. She was preceded in death by her older brothers, James Clinton Westin of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and Andrew Clark Westin of Mundelein, Illinois. She is survived by her husband, John Stephen “Steve” Larkin of Alexandria, Virginia; her son, Peter Anthony McConnell Larkin (Nina Burke Thompson) and granddaughter, Sophia Barbara Larkin of Santa Fe, New Mexico; and her daughter, Jessica Stiles Larkin (Austin John Hill) of Washington, DC.

Kathy, as she was known by all, was born to Anthony “Tony” Westin and Evelyn Clark Westin on June 16, 1945, in Benton Harbor, Michigan. In the fifth grade—unbeknownst to either of them at the time—she met Steve, her future husband with whom she would create a joyous life.

Kathy graduated from Benton Harbor High School in 1963. She went on to receive her BA from Purdue University in 1967, followed by an MA in Education from Michigan State University in 1968.

A handful of years later, Kathy and Steve reconnected and were married on December 24, 1975. Shortly after, they relocated to Washington, DC, and began their most meaningful journey—building a family of their own. They adopted their son, Peter, in 1983, and completed their family two years later

with the adoption of their daughter, Jessica. Family meant everything to Kathy. She was delighted to expand her “Core Team,” officially welcoming Nina to the family on September 12, 2015, and Austin on October 21, 2017. She was happiest when she was with her husband and all her kids (her ducks, as she would say), whether watching the sunset by the beach in Michigan or piled on the couch together at home.

A lifelong teacher, Kathy taught in school systems in Ohio, California, Michigan, Maryland and Virginia, finishing her career at Belle View Elementary School, the same school her two children attended. Kathy’s love of education extended far beyond the school system. She lived her life with the same commitment to learning and growing, imparting her wisdom on (and practicing patience with) her children. Kathy was also continually working on herself, taking up new activities like water aerobics, knitting and even learning to golf with Steve. She carried herself with grace and dignity and met life’s challenges with compassion and kindness. Where others may have folded, Kathy charged forward, taking the lessons in stride, looking for the opportunities, and finding the goodness.

Those near to Kathy know she was a perfect balance of strength, independence, and above all, a fierce and unconditional love for the wonderful family and friends who filled her life with purpose. We will miss her dearly, but she has left an indelible mark on everyone whose life she touched, and she would take pride in knowing that we all carry a piece of her with us.

A celebration of Kathy’s life will be held on Tuesday, November 14, at 10:00 a.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Alexandria, Virginia. The family will hold a private service in Saint Joseph, Michigan, to lay her to rest in the place she held close to her heart.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her honor to one of the

organizations Kathy dedicated her time and energy to:

The Twig, The Junior Auxiliary of Inova Alexandria Hospital

<https://www.thetwig.org/support-us/donate/>

Aldersgate United Women in Faith

<https://onrealm.org/Aldersgate/-/form/give/now>

Cemetery Details

Riverview Cemetery

2925 Niles Road
Saint Joseph, MI 49085

Previous Events

Funeral Service

NOV **14**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
1301 Collingwood Rd
Alexandria, VA 22308

Tribute Wall



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Kathryn Ann Larkin.*



November 13, 2023 at 02:24 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Kathryn Ann Larkin.*



November 10, 2023 at 01:35 PM



“ *Phil and Nancy Miller planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathryn Ann Larkin.*

Phil and Nancy Miller - November 07, 2023 at 02:00 PM



“ *Phil and Nancy Miller purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Kathryn Ann Larkin.*



Phil and Nancy Miller - November 07, 2023 at 02:00 PM

LD

“ My husband, Zak, and I send our very deepest condolences to Steve and the whole Larkin family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you in this difficult time.
-Laura (Bellonby) Desta.

Laura Desta - November 02, 2023 at 04:54 PM

RW

“ Richard W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathryn Ann Larkin.

Richard W. - November 02, 2023 at 09:21 AM

RW

“ Richard W. purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Kathryn Ann Larkin.



Richard W. - November 02, 2023 at 09:21 AM

BJ

“ Barb, Debby, Kathy, Joannie, Sherry, Jan purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Kathryn Ann Larkin.



Barb, Debby, Kathy, Joannie, Sherry, Jan - November 01, 2023 at 07:17 PM

RH

“ Prayers to Steve and family---Bob Husek

Robert Husek - November 01, 2023 at 03:05 PM

CB

“ I have so many great childhood memories of Kathy....the sleepovers, the bike riding, the goofing around. We went to church and school together and had mutual friends and enjoyed our younger days. My thoughts and prayers to Steve and her family!!

Carole Bell - November 01, 2023 at 11:37 AM



“ Steve, Peter, Jessica,
Please accept our sincere condolences.
We were shocked and devastated to learn of Kathy's passing. She was a true friend and we will miss her greatly.
We first met you many years ago and were struck by Kathy's vivacity and love of life. The years did not diminish those traits. Kathy and Arlene shared their elementary education background and the fact that we are also adoptive parents reinforced our friendship.
Our little circle of neighborhood friends (The Group) has lost a vital and irreplaceable component. We all loved spending time with Kathy. She was energetic, intelligent, insightful, and generous. May you Rest In Peace, dear friend.
Wayne and Arlene Minami

Wayne Minami - November 01, 2023 at 06:12 AM

GE

“ *What an amazing woman! Kind, intelligent, caring and a joy to be around. I was so glad to have reconnected with her in person after many years of only holiday cards. Her visit with us this summer and her pleasure in seeing her former home in Ypsilanti, now a school administration office, are memories I will cherish. We are blessed to have known her.*

Gege - October 31, 2023 at 09:35 PM