



## Kathryn Marie James

January 26, 1936 - February 13, 2025

Kathryn Marie James, a resident of Centralia, IL, passed away peacefully on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at the age of 89.

Born on Sunday, January 26, 1936 in Richview, Illinois to Claude T. and Florence (Kemp) Newman. She married John Murray on July 3, 1954 and they later divorced. Kathryn married Stanley James and he preceded her in death on May 10, 2003.

Kathryn was cherished by many, including her children: Debbie Stankus of Centralia, Peggy Szopinski and her husband Henry of New Minden, and Bryan Murray and his wife Amy of Walnut Hill. She was a proud grandmother to six grandchildren: Tara Finke and her husband Jason, Blane Murray and Alexis Holmes, Brookland Rossel, Crede Correll, Sandra Heinman and her husband Paul, and Kari Challand and her husband Mark. Her legacy continues through her eleven great-grandchildren: Sunny, Sadie, Starla, Daci, Degyn, Cody, Jordon, Brandon, Brooke, Austin, and Axel. Kathryn is also survived by her brothers: Keith Newman and Tom Newman, her sister-in-law: Marlene Newman, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Kathryn was preceded in death by her parents, her husband: Stanley James, her grandson: Jeremy Szopinski, sisters: Evelyn, Helen, and Vivian, brothers: Harold, Gary, Kenneth, and Ronald, her son-in-law: Alan Stankus, and her

dear friend: Norm Sprehe.

Known for her dedication and talent, Kathryn worked as a seamstress at Miss Elaines. She was a member of the Richview Baptist Church. She was also a member of the Centralia Women of the Moose. Kathryn found joy in dancing, camping, fishing, farming, traveling, and spending time with her cherished family. Kathryn's life was a testament to dedication, love, and an unwavering commitment to her family.

In celebration of Kathryn's remarkable life, a Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, February 21, 2025, at 1:00 PM at the Hillcrest Lakeside Chapel in Centralia, with Pastor Steve Upchurch officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Washington County Humane Society, and will be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home, located at 235 North Sycamore Street, Centralia, Illinois 62801, (618)532-3523, who is honored to serve Kathryn's family. Online condolences may be shared with the family by visiting [www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com](http://www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com) and the Funeral Home Facebook page. Kathryn will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who knew her.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

FEB 21. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM.

Hillcrest Lakeside Chapel

# Tribute Wall

CL

“ Carol L. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathryn Marie James.

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**Carol L.** - February 24, 2025 at 03:05 PM

KW

“ I had the absolute pleasure of working for Miss Kathryn in her home. She was such a lovely, wonderful woman. She was so strong awhile being so gentle. It was always a good day when I was able to sit with her & listen to old country music playing on the television. I only knew her for a short time in her many years of life, but she is someone I will keep close to my heart. She will always be admired. She loved with all her heart. My deepest condolences to Debbie, and siblings. It's an honor to have known such a beautiful woman.

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**Katie Wilson** - February 21, 2025 at 07:22 PM

SJ

“ Kathryn made our father Stanley very happy and cared for during their marriage. We shared many good times when visiting with them. We weren't fortunate to share a lasting bond once our father passed. She always made us feel at home and made wonderful memories with our children. God bless her and may her friends remember her great hospitality.  
Stan James

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**Stan James** - February 18, 2025 at 01:42 PM

NK

“ I worked next to Kathryn for years at Miss Elaine's in the early 1980's and we have been friends ever since. She was a devoted mother and grandmother. She will be missed by many.

Nancy Kyker - February 16, 2025 at 07:18 PM

SH

“ My dear Aunt Kate has left us, but will never be forgotten. I'll always remember her laughter and spunk. She was a treasure to all who knew her. Now she is dancing forever in Heaven. Loved her!

Sue Houser, her niece in Arizona

Sue Houser - February 16, 2025 at 10:32 AM

LW

Kathryn was a wonderful neighbor. I enjoyed visiting with her on her back porch. I will miss her. Lydia West

Lydia West - February 16, 2025 at 05:05 PM

PB

“ I got to know Kathryn when she was with Norm  
Such a nice lady and a fun couple! Just a sweetheart! Godspeed.



Peggy Myers Beal - February 16, 2025 at 12:21 AM

MB

“ A child hood mom Ive known since me and her daughter peggy went to Raccoon School she was such a awesome lady



Monica Brown - February 15, 2025 at 09:30 PM

BW

“ *She was so sweet. She was very nice to my daughter.*

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**Brenda White** - February 15, 2025 at 07:25 PM

DW

“ *Thinking of the family during this difficult time.  
Sorry for your loss. She was a sweet lady.  
With sincere sympathy & condolences  
Donna & Allen Wooters*



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**Donna Wooters** - February 15, 2025 at 03:56 PM