



Elda L. Ruckrigel

August 24, 1940 - September 18, 2020

Elda Louise (Kaufman) Ruckrigel went to be with the Lord on September 18, 2020.

She was born August 24, 1940 at her parents farm near Rankin, Illinois. Elda's early schooling was at East Lynn, Illinois. She received a degree in education from Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois in 1958. her first teaching assignment was at Iroquois North School system in Iroquois County Illinois. Elda then moved to Freeport, Illinois, where she taught Home Economics at the Freeport Junior High School and Carl Sandburg Middle School until she retired in 1994. She was a member of Embury United Methodist Church in Freeport where she enjoyed singing with the chancel choir.

While teaching at Carl Sandburg Middle School, Elda met and married Robert John Ruckrigel. They were married August 5, 1972 at the Embury United Methodist Church in Freeport. Elda and Bob shared a deep love of music and both sang in the chancel choir. Together, they enjoyed traveling and took several summer camping trips to Colorado and the Western states. They were members of the Holiday Rambler RV Club – the Chief Shabana Ramblers of northwestern Illinois as well as the Shawnee Ramblers of Southern Illinois. Both clubs have ceased to exist, but their activities meant a lot to both Elda and Bob.

After retiring, Elda volunteered in the kindergarten departments at several of the Freeport area schools. Her volunteering continued until she and Bob moved to southern Illinois in 2000. At this point in her career, Elda volunteered in the kindergarten and first grade classes at the Cypress Grade School. During the winter months (December through March), Elda also volunteered at Mesquite Grade School in Casa Grande, Arizona. She and Bob sang in the church choirs at both the Vienna First United Methodist Church and at the United Methodist Church of Casa Grande.

Elda loved her “kids” during her teaching career as well as her involvement in her church affiliations. She attended Sunday School while in Freeport, in Casa Grande, Arizona and in Vienna, Illinois. Church and her faith have always been an important part of Elda’s life.

Elda’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kaufman, preceded her in death. She is survived by: her husband – Robert “Bob” Ruckrigel; 2 sisters – Ruth (Jim) Abel of Indiana and Donna (Rich) Abbott of Crossville, Tennessee; a brother – Gary (Ann) Kaufman of Crossville, Tennessee; as well as several nieces and nephews in California and Ohio.

A service honoring the life of Elda Kaufman Ruckrigel will be conducted Tuesday morning, September 22, 2020, at 11 AM at the Vienna First United Methodist Church, 301 North 4th St., Vienna, Illinois 62995. Pastor Timothy Gossett will officiate.

A time of visitation for family and friends will be held Tuesday morning from 10 AM – 11 AM at the church.

A graveside service will be held Wednesday morning, September 23, 2020, at 11 AM at Cissna Park Cemetery, located on East North Road, in Cissna Park, Illinois. Those attending the graveside service are invited to gather at the

cemetery at 10:45 AM Wednesday.

Memorials may be made to the Vienna First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 1349, Vienna, Illinois 62995 or to the Christian Bible Church, PO Box 162, Cissna Park, Illinois 60924.

Those attending the visitation and service in Vienna are required to enter via the church fellowship hall entrance. There will be a temperature check station for all attending. Additionally, compliance with customarily accepted social distancing guidelines and the wearing of a face mask or covering is required.

Cemetery Details

Cissna Park Cemetery

E. North Road
Cissna Park, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 22. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (cst)

First United Methodist Church
301 N 4th St
Vienna, IL 62995
(618) 658-3311

Service

SEP 22. 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
301 N 4th St
Vienna, IL 62995
(618) 658-3311

Graveside Service

SEP 23. 11:00 AM (cst)

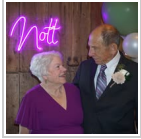
Cissna Park Cemetery
E. North Road
Cissna Park, IL

Tribute Wall



“ *Elda L. Ruckrigel*

January 30, 2023 at 12:19 AM



“ *The Stephenson County Retired Teachers would like you to know that a memorial donation was sent to the Illinois Retired Teachers Foundation in Ms. Ruckrigel's name. This Foundation helps retired teachers who are having a tough time and need financial assistance. Our sympathies to you for your loss. Julie Wenzel, President of SCRTA.*

Linda Grilliot Nott - December 21, 2020 at 10:16 AM



“ *Elda has been a friend since the moment we met those 20 years ago. She and Bob have been wonderful friends offering support to one and all. Char and I will miss her greatly though we know God has accepted her with wide open arms.*

Bob & Char Jones - September 24, 2020 at 03:48 PM



“ *John Slack sent a virtual gift in memory of Elda L. Ruckrigel*



John Slack - September 21, 2020 at 07:21 PM

CG

“ *Cindy Gholson purchased the Garden Accent - A heart of gold stopped beating... for the family of Elda L. Ruckrigel.*



Cindy Gholson - September 21, 2020 at 06:23 PM

TC

“ *Elda always made me feel special, and I felt like I had known her all my life. Her smile and hug always warmed my heart. She will be missed.*

Tambra Cain - September 21, 2020 at 04:48 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Elda L. Ruckrigel.*



September 21, 2020 at 02:17 PM

KS

“ *Mrs. R was such a wonderful addition to our CGs family. She loved working with the students and always brought something unique to our classrooms. The students looked forward to seeing her, have such fond memories of her, and will miss her dearly!*

Kimberly Shoemaker - September 21, 2020 at 10:36 AM

TS

“ *The Brother And Sisters purchased the Beautiful i
n Blue for the family of Elda L. Ruckrigel.*



The Brother And Sisters - September 21, 2020 at 09:10 AM

CW

“ *Sorry for your loss Bob.Elda was always a ray
of sunshine in life.just knowing her was a
joy.She will be missed so much.I have you in
my prayers.*



Carmen Wells - September 20, 2020 at 10:22 PM

SL

“ *Steve&Kathy (Whiteside) Lay lit a candle in
memory of Elda L. Ruckrigel*



Steve&Kathy (Whiteside) Lay - September 20, 2020 at 08:08 PM

BS

“ *I was choir director at Vienna Methodist from 2004 - 2012. Elda was
a faithful member of the choir. She always had a smile on her face
and a positive attitude! Heaven gained an angel! Will always have
fond memories of my time with her. Prayers for Bob!*

Barb Stanley - September 20, 2020 at 06:40 PM

DB

“ Mrs. R. was a wonderful lady. I met her while I was the PreK Teacher at Cypress Grade School. She was always smiling and talking to the children. My students were excited whenever Mrs R would come and read a book to them. She will be missed. God bless you Mrs R.

Debbie Keith Bradley - September 20, 2020 at 12:22 AM

CG

“ Mrs. R (as she was so lovingly known in my Kindergarten class), brought so much love and kindnesses to those she touched. I considered her a good friend, and I will miss her greatly! She loved working with kids, and the kids loved her! She volunteered in my Kindergarten class, and her weekly visits were a highlight of my students' week! Rest In Peace, Eida!



Cindy Gholson - September 19, 2020 at 09:37 PM

WF

“ Wanda Florey lit a candle in memory of Eida L. Ruckrigel



Wanda Florey - September 19, 2020 at 09:07 PM

MH

“ *She was such a sweet and caring Lady I meet her when I worked at Cypress Grade School. Prayers for the family.*



Mary Lou Hynes - September 19, 2020 at 08:20 PM