



Diane L. Keesling

May 10, 1942 - September 23, 2019

Diane Lee Keesling, 77, of Winchester, passed away on the afternoon of Monday, September 23, 2019 at Reid Health in Richmond.

She was born May 10, 1942 in Muncie, Indiana, a daughter of the late Paul E. and Virginia E. (Coon) Keesling.

Diane attended Center School until 9th grade. She graduated Valedictorian of the 1960 class at Union High School, was a class officer, captain of the cheer block, and voted most popular by her senior classmates. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Early Elementary Education from Indiana University and subsequently a Master's Degree in Special Education from the University of Illinois. When one of the nurses at the Reid Hospital asked her if she went to Purdue, she said, "Uh, no. I went to IU and was going to save the world through kindergarten".

Diane was gifted in her generosity, kindness and love for children and adults with special needs. Her life of service was focused around early childhood education and serving special needs children, adults, and their families. She taught early education in various public schools and opened a daycare in Indianapolis (Children's Place) that cared for children with special needs. She was case manager and teacher for severe developmentally disabled children at Noble Centers in Indianapolis. She also served as a case coordinator for Muscatatuck State Development Center, Jay-Randolph Developmental Services, and Indiana Department of Social Services.

She loved singing, drama and acting both as a performer and director. Diane was in IU Choral and enjoyed directing several small civic theaters. She also directed plays for Union High School, Modoc.

Diane's faith and love of Christ was an essential part of her life. She was raised in the Methodist Church at New Burlington and later Modoc. She also served at Hagerstown Methodist and First Church of Christ in Lynn. She taught Sunday school, helped with VBS,

and sang solo or in church choir any time given the opportunity.

She was “Aunt Diane” to her 20 beloved nieces and nephews, and also to almost anyone younger than her that she got to know. As some of her family stated, “What a blessing to have an aunt like her. Everyone should have an ‘Aunt Diane’ and, ‘Our family owes her a debt of happiness that we must keep passing on.’” She never forgot a birthday and always stuffed birthday cards with confetti hoping to “get” someone who forgot to open their card over a waste can. “Aunt Diane - forever my favorite birthday song singer and red lipstick wearer.”

Those left to cherish Diane’s memory include her brother, Richard (Nina) Keesling of Kennett Square, PA ; her sister Ruth Bracken of Modoc; a brother, Donnie (Barbara) Keesling of Modoc; nieces and nephews; Carrie Keesling Roth, of Piedmont, OK, Mikey (Brenda) Bracken of Yorktown, Jody Saylor of La Habra, CA, Brad “Bradford” (Lisa) Keesling of Modoc, Kimberly Keesling of Lafayette, Brittany Keesling of Philadelphia, PA, and Tyler Keesling of Chicago, IL, and great-nieces and great-nephews, Corey, Joshua, Justin, Alex, Sam, Harper Elizabeth, Kayla Grace, Rosie (Posie), Amanda (Panda), Jayde, Emma, Leah, and Olivia.

Per Diane’s wishes there will be no public service.

Contributions in Diane’s memory may be offered to the Community Foundation of Randolph County, 120 W. Washington St., Winchester, IN 47394 or www.randolphcountyfoundation.org.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Sproles Family Funeral Home in New Castle. You may send the family a personal condolence, story or memory at www.sprolesfamilycares.com. Diane’s family has requested notes with memories, stories and pictures.

Comments



“ Diane was my drama director at Eastern Hancock from 1982 - 1985. I had never been in theater productions before, so everything I learned - I learned from her. She had such talent, and we had such fun. We also put on some truly great shows for a high School drama group.

I graduated in 1985, and am fairly certain Diane quit working at EH after my senior year. Our last play had been Godspell.

I lost touch with Diane after graduation, but thought of her when reminiscing about high school drama. I tried to find her on Facebook a couple of times, but was never successful.

How I found out about her passing was a couple other former EH drama kids were talking about her - wondering where she was. I have a subscription to Ancestry.com - and was eventually able to find out that she had moved from Indy.

Then I Googled her name, and her obituary popped up. I recognized her face immediately, and her obituary was in line with her background.

Please let the family know that she was a true treasure to the students at Eastern Hancock, and many of us have so many great memories of her work there.

So sorry to hear of her passing. Prayers to you all.

-Brigette Cook Jones
EH class of 1985

Brigette Jones - April 14, 2020 at 12:16 AM



“ I remember Diane's friendly personality and her beautiful face, smile and voice. She made the world around her a better place. Lois Ann Stults

Lois Ann Stults - October 02, 2019 at 03:12 PM



“ We have lost an Incredibly “Gifted” Lady who has touched more Lives than she would ever know!!! She Dedicated her Life to Teach and Change the Lives of Kids (and Adults) for Good!! She always gave EVERYBODY Her Heart ,Time,and Her BEST!!!! I’ve always admired Her Enthusiasm and Determination to Pursue Her Vision and Dreams! My Becky LOVED Diane and had SO MANY MEMORIES She would tell me about... Many were Fun Times...ALL made a Beautiful Impact on her Life!!!! The more I got to Know Diane, I,too, came to Love Her!! She had Great Sense of Humor, Great “Quick-Come-Backs”, BEST LAUGHTER,and a TERRIBLE EUCHRE Player !!!!!?!! I teased her about being “Valedictorian” of Her Senior High School Class at “CENTER” School!! I told Her I bet she just “FLIPPED A COIN” with THE OTHER PERSON in Her Class on who would be Valedictorian and who be Salutatorian!?!?! (Just Teasing Her)! The Truth is She was VERY INTELLIGENT and had a HUGE CARING HEART!! She Absolutely Touched my Life and made me (and EVERYONE around Her) Feel Important to Her!!!!!! I’m SO GRATEFUL for Brad’s Video Post of Her Singing “His Eye is on the Sparrow” towards the end of Her Journey in This Life(it brought tears down my cheeks)!!! She not only Taught Many Others the Christian Faith... SHE LIVED IT !!!!!!! And God,who watches “The Sparrow”... Watched over Diane from The Beginning to The End of Her Life here on Earth... and CROWNED HER “VALEDICTORIAN” In HEAVEN!!!!!! In Philippians 1:6...”He (God) who began a Good Work In You(Diane), Will be FAITHFUL TO COMPLETE IT(IN HEAVEN)!!!! I KNOW I’m going to see Her AGAIN One Day in HEAVEN!!!!We Miss and Mourn Her Leaving...But we also CELEBRATE HER LIFE and the Powerful Impact and Memories She Gave to us ALL!!!!(...however...just a thought.... if they should happen to have cards in Heaven.... and have the game of Euchre... I will NOT be Her Partner... I Don’t Care how SMART SHE IS !!!!!!! Diane, Thank You For Being YOU... SPECIAL!

Rusty Clements - September 29, 2019 at 05:51 PM



“ I so enjoyed reading about all my dear classmate did with her life. She did not waste a moment. I remember her welcoming smile and enthusiasm for life. She always had a zest for life and now she is face to face with her Lord and Savior who was able to say to her I'm sure "Well done my good and faithful servant" A former classmate Sandra Retter

Sandra Retter - September 26, 2019 at 09:36 PM



“ Dear Keesling Cousins....it is truly with a sad heart that I write to express my deep condolences to you, my cousins and Diane's siblings. I treasure my fond memories of times spent together as kids growing up and visiting each other's homes, playing in the barns, and enjoying 'life on the farms'. Diane and I were only a month apart in age, and she was always such fun to be with. It was very special when I could spend time with her. She always said we were of the 'kissin' cousin generation'! We enjoyed the annual Keesling family reunions so much. I loved her dearly. Thank you, Dick, for sending me a message about her passing. That meant a lot. Love to you all, Phyllis
James Battice

Phyllis James Battice - September 26, 2019 at 08:15 PM



“ The crazy lady would always take all 5 of us, rambunctious youngins' to the restaurant in Indianapolis that had the Wurlitzer organ. It was always my favorite adventure.

Jody Saylor - September 26, 2019 at 05:45 PM