



## Linda Sue Kay

December 2, 1948 - March 17, 2024

Linda Sue Kay, a loving wife, mother and grandmother, known for her generosity and thoughtfulness, died peacefully at home on Sunday, March 17, 2024. Linda, 75, of Grand Rapids, was born December 2, 1948 in Ypsilanti, MI, the daughter of Paul Birtie and Lora Louella (Lawson) Baird. She graduated with a Bachelor Degree from Michigan State University and went to work in education. Linda married the love of her life, Thomas Patrick Kay on February 4, 1978. Soon after their marriage, Linda and Tom took ownership of Kay's Natural Living Health Foods on MLK in Lansing. They happily operated the store together for just over 20 years. Linda was also known to greet each customer warmly, and was always a listening ear. Linda will be remembered for her kindness and empathy for others, qualities she put to use in the classroom as a substitute teacher for the Lansing School District. After they closed the store, Linda continued her teaching with various school districts in the Tri-County area.

Her family will always cherish Linda's preparation and care in creating the most meaningful and beautiful family gatherings at the home. Her attention to detail was especially evident in her Christmas Tree, which was always trimmed to perfection. She loved to cook for her family, and spent many hours in the garden and canning food. She also loved constantly working on the family home, preparing for renovations or work around the grounds. Perhaps her greatest personal joy was camping up North in the Upper Peninsula with

her family. Linda found peace around the bonfire and in nature. She was especially thankful for the Michigan State Parks and the comfort extended to visitors by the employees.

Linda kept in touch with her sister and extended family. She enjoyed trips "down home" to Essex, MO, for family reunions. She loved watching movies, time spent with her grandchildren, and generally interacting with others. She would give everything she had even if it meant she would go without so that someone else would not be without. Above all, Linda will be remembered as someone who cared deeply for others, someone who truly knew that it was better to give than receive, someone who was always ready and willing to be there for others, someone who put family first, and someone who never gave up. Even when she faced health troubles early in her cancer stages, she continued to teach, right up to her retirement.

Linda is survived by her husband of 46 years, Thomas Kay; their son, Jonathon (Robin Meester) Kay; two grandchildren, Lillian and Jackson Kay; siblings, Paulette Croghan and Robert Baird; and several nieces, nephews, and extended family. She was predeceased by her son, Brandon Kay in 2003; her brother-in-law, John Croghan; and her parents.

Friends are encouraged to support Linda's family by attending services or sharing memories on her Tribute Page at [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com). Visitation will be from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Friday, March 22, 2024 at Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte. Funeral Services will be at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 23, 2024 at Pray Funeral Home with interment to follow in Woodlawn Cemetery in Vermontville. The funeral will be webcast so you may watch it from any computer, smartphone, or mobile device that has internet access. Go to [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com), click on Linda's tribute, then click on Photos and Videos from your computer (or Media from your smartphone). In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to Meals on Wheels. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.



# Cemetery Details

## Woodlawn Cemetery

10911 Vermontville Hwy  
Vermontville, MI 49096

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 22. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W Seminary St  
Charlotte, MI 48813

## Funeral Ceremony

MAR 23. 11:00 AM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W Seminary St  
Charlotte, MI 48813

## Burial

MAR 23. 12:30 PM (ET)

Woodlawn Cemetery  
10911 Vermontville Hwy  
Vermontville, MI 49096



# Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Linda Sue Kay*



---

**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - March 23, 2024 at 10:50 AM



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Linda Sue Kay*



---

**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - March 21, 2024 at 08:15 PM

JB

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



---

**Judy Baird** - March 22, 2024 at 12:10 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Linda Sue Kay.



---

March 22, 2024 at 04:13 AM

PC

“ Paul, Beth, Sydney, & Taylor Croghan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Linda Sue Kay.

---

**Paul, Beth, Sydney, & Taylor Croghan** - March 22, 2024 at 04:13 AM

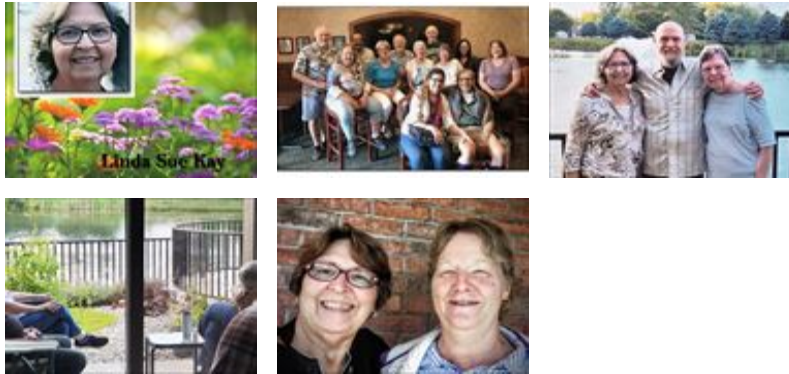
JB

“ Mrs. Kay was my Interim TAG Teacher when I was in seventh grade at Eaton Rapids Middle School, and those were the BEST two months in TAG. I also had her as a sub teacher in many of my other classes at GIS, ERMS and ERHS. She deeply cared for all the students she worked with across all schools. Thoughts & prayers go out to her family and friends during this time.

Jeremy B. - March 21, 2024 at 11:56 PM



“ 46 files added to the album Life Tributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - March 21, 2024 at 08:14 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Linda Sue Kay.



March 21, 2024 at 12:43 PM

KZ

“ Kim and Frank Zoppa purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Linda Sue Kay.



---

**Kim and Frank Zoppa** - March 20, 2024 at 03:57 PM

MH

“ Tom and Jonathan, I send my thoughts and prayers to you! Tom, you have been a part for my life for a long time. I wish I could be there but instead I send my love from Minnesota. Big hug! Marty Hamlin

---

**Marty Hamlin** - March 20, 2024 at 01:04 AM

AB

“ So very sorry for your loss Jonathan, Tom and family. I was blessed to meet Linda and her family when they became residents of our senior living community. I will cherish all of our talks and Linda was not only my resident but a dear friend. Linda has touched my heart and will always be in my thoughts and prayers. Forever in my heart. Anne Boley

---

**Anne Boley** - March 19, 2024 at 04:10 PM

GK

“ Tom and Jonathon, I am so very sorry for your loss. I loved your wife and mother. She will hold a special place in my heart always. Genevieve K.

---

**Genevieve Kulhawik** - March 19, 2024 at 04:08 PM

CF

“ So sorry to hear of Linda's passing. I saw her at Eaton Rapids Public schools as a substitute teacher . I worked as a para. She had a great smile and was always great at her job. My thoughts to her families. Carol Freer



Carol Freer - March 18, 2024 at 09:40 PM

JA

“ Jerry A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Linda Sue Kay.

Jerry A. - March 18, 2024 at 08:47 PM

KV

“ Certainly what has been written of Linda are true words. Meeting her as neighbors 44 years ago, we have shared many good times together. Linda was one who loved to talk to everyone, mainly because she was interested in other peoples' lives and stories, she cared. She loved her family, her extended family and her community. Her memory will always be a treasure to me and I believe we will spend eternity, by the grace of our Father, together. God bless and keep those left without her physical presence for now, what she gave us while with us, will live on, her love and joy! Kathy Carrigan VanSkike

kathy vanskike - March 18, 2024 at 08:15 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Linda Sue Kay.



March 18, 2024 at 07:03 PM

SG

“ Tom, Jonathan and family, I am so sorry for the loss of Linda. I am heartbroken. Linda was a childhood friend of mine. We attended school together in the Willow Run School district from kindergarten through high school. I have many fond memories of her. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of sorrow. Sarah (Wagner) Goebel

---

**Sarah Goebel** - March 18, 2024 at 06:59 PM