



Kathleen M. "Kathie" Kentner

July 24, 1936 - April 2, 2025

Many years ago, when a devastating hurricane hit southern Texas, Kathleen (Kathie)

Kentner decided she needed to do something to help. When asked by her children

why she, a woman in her 70's, would be willing to drive to Texas, work long hours at a

Red Cross crisis shelter, and sleep on a cot for several days, she responded, "If not

me, then who? I have time to do this, and I like helping others." This is who Kathie

was and how she will be remembered.

Kathleen Marie Leahy was born on July 24, 1936, in Canton, Ohio. She was the first

of the ten children of James Leahy and Josephine (Bonnot) Leahy. As a child, she

enjoyed playing with her sisters and cousins, especially Rita Murray. She liked taking

two city buses and then running up the big hill to the Leahy grandparents' home.

Some of her favorite childhood memories were playing drums in the marching band,

taking piano lessons for a short while, learning how to swim at the YMCA,

participating in synchronized swimming, and learning how to sew. Kathie attended Canton Central Catholic and Bowling Green State University, where she met Thomas Kentner. They were married on September 14, 1957, and spent 67 years together and raised seven children. Kathie enjoyed working with numbers and had exceptional organizational skills. She worked a variety of different jobs over the years, but her favorite role was in the Wapakoneta High School Athletic Department. She enjoyed working with the staff, the student-athletes, and the scheduling. While raising her seven children, she dedicated a great deal of time to supporting their activities. She encouraged their involvement, attended all of their performances and sporting events, and often volunteered behind the scenes with booster groups, fundraising, chaperoning (many years of summer band camp) and tailoring costumes and uniforms. She continued her volunteerism with her grandchildren and spent part of one summer traveling with granddaughter Allison's drum and bugle corps as their onsite tailor. As a talented seamstress and someone who appreciated beautiful fabrics, Kathie poured much time and love into making table runners and placemats, beautiful quilts, and her unique purses that she sold at local craft and art fairs. Customers

returned to her booth many years for the opportunity to purchase her one-of-a-kind purses. She loved to make them with fabrics printed with Peanuts characters, shamrocks, OSU Buckeyes, plaids, and lots of pinks. They were beautifully constructed treasures.

Kathie knew what she liked. It was a long list but here goes: children with red hair, children with curly hair, and children with freckles (none of Kathie's children had any of these qualities); raspberries, chocolate—especially Heggy's Chocolates; all things pink; making rhubarb pies and holiday mini fruitcakes; drinking hot tea in the morning and evening and Diet Coke in between; solving Sudoku and word search puzzles and correcting your grammar; going to church, riding bikes and driving Fords; playing bridge, knitting, and watching The Voice; tending to her flowers, keeping an eye out for the bald eagle by the river and hummingbirds at her feeder. She was a big fan of lighthouses, steamboats, New York City, the Cincinnati Reds, The Ohio State University Marching Band, and all-things Ireland. She liked to have things in order: nails painted, house clean, well-ironed clothing and a fresh new book to read. And she especially loved cheering for her grandchildren at their many different performances and competitions.

Kathie was a very special and spirited woman. She enjoyed riding her bike and participated in the Great Ohio Bike Adventure several years with her daughter,

Karen,
and granddaughter, Allison. Just six years ago, Kathie bought a 3-wheeled
bicycle
and enjoyed riding it around the block on warm and sunny days. Years ago,
she
bought a beautiful 1966 orange Mustang and took it to car shows for several
years.
She took up piano lessons again in her 60's. She and Tom travelled all over
the US,
especially when her oldest son, Kevin, was in the Coast Guard. They often
visited him
at the different ports where he was assigned. She also traveled to Alaska,
went on a
river cruise with her good friend, Barbara Cummings, she visited Rome and
Ireland
and decided she wanted to return to Ireland to witness the world record being
set for
the number of Irish dancers performing simultaneously.
Kathie was preceded in death just eight months ago by Tom, and is survived
by her
large and loving family, including her seven children: Kevin (Janice) Kentner,
Wapakoneta, Michael Kentner, Wapakoneta, Karen (Mark) Crooks, Tampa,
Florida,
Matthew (Amy) Kentner, Wapakoneta, Melissa Kentner (James Gimeson),
Worthington, Ohio, Amy (Christopher) Jaromin, Andover, Massachusetts, and
Timothy Kentner, Wapakoneta.
She is survived by 15 grandchildren: Aaron Vorhees, Kara Kentner, Karli
Mertler,
Kimberly Kentner, Allison Kothe, Amy Kimes, Alec Geddes, Evan Crooks, Eli
Kentner, Olivia Kentner, Emma Kentner, Curran Gimeson, Ryan Gimeson,
Zachary

Jaromin, and Addison Jaromin.

Kathie is also survived by 10 great grandchildren: Jaedon, Kelson, Johnny, Calvin,

Riley, Henry, Hoyer, Xander, Cooper, and Collins, her siblings: Mary Ann (Don)

Gordon, Karen Leahy, Josephine Leahy, Daniel (Donna) Leahy, Timothy (Sylvia)

Leahy, and her sisters-in-law Carolyn (Jim) Pfenning, Judy (Ken) Bell, and Joanne

Oliver. She was preceded in death by an infant son, Mark Kentner, a grandson, Josh

Vorhees, her sisters Jacqueline Hambach, Virginia Leahy, Eileen Matsell, and Jeanette Calkins, and her sister-in-law Jean Bell.

The wonderful staff at Miller Place, Celina, Ohio, where Kathie most recently resided, was able to connect with her in ways others couldn't in her last days.

The

family greatly appreciates their kindness, compassion, and care.

The family will receive friends Thursday, April 10, 2025, 4:00 – 8:00 pm, Eley Funeral

Home and Crematory, St. Rt. 501, Wapakoneta. Mass of Christian burial will be

Friday, April 11, 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Wapakoneta. Burial is to

follow at St. Joseph Cemetery,

The family asks that we celebrate Kathie by wearing pink.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Red Cross or volunteering to help

those in need, as Kathie did on so many occasions.

Condolences may be expressed at www.eleyfuneralhomeandcrematory.com

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph Cemetery

Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 10. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Eley Funeral Home & Crematory
1102 Lincoln Hwy
Wapakoneta, OH 45895
(419) 738-7676
eleyfuneralhome@gmail.com
<https://www.eleyfuneralhomeandcrematory.com/>

Service

APR 11. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
Pearl Street
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kathleen M. "Kathie" Kentner.*



April 09, 2025 at 12:42 PM



“ *Such a sweet lady--many good memories at WHS!*

Miriam Lynch - April 09, 2025 at 08:35 AM



“ *My deepest sympathy to all the family. I had known Kathy for many years and enjoyed her friendship. May her many, wonderful memories sustain all of you during this difficult time. Rest in peace Kathy. Jim Harrison*

Jim Harrison - April 08, 2025 at 03:17 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kathleen M. "Kathie" Kentner.*



April 07, 2025 at 01:36 PM

LG

“ Lesley G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathleen M. "Kathie" Kentner.

Lesley G. - April 06, 2025 at 07:30 PM

JO

“ I've always considered you as my 4th Sister! You've were in the family almost as long as I!
Aunt Joanne

Joanne Oliver - April 05, 2025 at 02:17 PM

KH

Dear Family, I am Katie Leahy Horning and my father, David Leahy was Kathy's uncle David. I remember Kathy mostly from family reunions. She was a low saltry-voiced gentle soul. Reading her beautiful obituary just reminds me of our family and their giving hearts. I hope to make Kathy proud with the way I live my life. Thank you!!
Hugs to the family. 🤗

katie Leahy Horning - April 08, 2025 at 01:14 PM

JB

“ You have been my sister-in-law forever. Love you. Rest in peace.

Judy Bell - April 04, 2025 at 09:01 AM