

Katherine Jenny “Katie” Buchmann

May 13, 1916 (Beloit, WI) October 17, 2008 (Rockford, IL)

Katherine Jenny "Katie" Buchmann, 92, of Rockford passed away



Friday, October 17, 2008, in Rockford Memorial Hospital. She was born in Beloit on May 13, 1916, to Sebastian and Maria (Sammartano) Alis. She married John Buchmann on April 26, 1941, in Rockford; he died November 19, 1957, at age 42.

Katie was wife, mother, daughter, sister, mother-in-law, aunt Katie, nana, Tina, Katie, Katherine, friend, neighbor, confidant, patient, client, Democrat, life-long student, cook, sports lover, dancer, patriot, advocate, gardener, seamstress, wood refinisher, reader, community advocate, coffee drinker, and “party girl”

She was a spark plug who loved to be where the action was.

Katie didn't fear controversy if it meant helping someone. She believed in education and fairness to all students. When Rockford public schools were accused of not being fair and equitable to all students, she joined a committee to research the issue.

Education was sacred to her, but times were tough. So, when the family needed additional income, her parents asked her to quit school at the end of her junior year. She was devastated and vowed to one day finish high school. On Thursday morning, June 8, 1961, when our Classmates, Frank Buchmann and his future wife Julie Hesler, graduated from Rockford's West High School, Kate also received her General Education Diploma (GED) - finally getting her diploma. Katie was thrilled when Rock Valley Junior College opened because she could also go to college - and she did just that. The whole family studied at the dining room table.

Katie would always remember two events of her last year. One was the Perry Como concert; she could hardly contain herself through the concert; then she met him, and he kissed her. Katie was on Cloud 9! The other event was when daughter, Kathie, took her to see Candidate Barack

Obama at the Rockford Public Library. An Associated Press picture of Katie and the future President appeared in newspapers all over the country. Her godson, who lives in Arizona, called to tell her he'd seen it.

That was Kate: she didn't want to be forgotten, and she won't be.. She is a part of so many people in this world. It is as if she is a thread in the quilt of life - touching so many. Katie made her mark in this world, and it is a better place because she was in it.

She was employed by Rockford Public Schools, Head Start, Lenz Pharmacy, and Ingersoll Milling and Machine. She was a member of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Lithuanian Club Auxiliary, Montague House Mothers Club, YMCA, Edgewater Neighborhood Association, and the Wesley Willows band.

Katherine Jenny Buchmann is survived by children, **Frank (Julie) Buchmann**, Kathie (Ronald) Mattison, Marie (David) Mattison, and Tom Buchmann; grandchildren, David-John Mattison, John Buchmann and Patrick Mattison, Alison (Nick) Njoro, Rebecca (Bill) Cartwright, and Katherine (Jay) Tillmann; great-grandchildren, Abigail and William Cartwright, Wanjiru Njora, and "Buddy Buchmann" (Tom's dog); sisters, Dee Povalitis and Jo Baranauski; sister-in-law, Bernice Falzone; many nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews; the Giuseppe Ales family in Marsala, Sicily; the Bob Sharp family; and her beloved cousins from Chicago. She was predeceased by husband, John; parents; brother, John Alis; her in-laws, John's parents, Bernice and Frank Buchmann; and many brothers-in-laws and sisters-in-law; and Tom's other dog, "Archie."

Visitation will be from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friday, October 24th in Fitzgerald Funeral Home and Crematory, Rockton Chapel, 3910 North Rockton Road, Rockford. The Rosary will be recited at 7:30 p.m. that evening and again at 9:00 a.m. Saturday before Mass. The Funeral Mass will be 9:30 a.m. Saturday, October 25th in St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, 1010 Ferguson Street, Rockford, with the Franciscan Friars officiating. Burial will be in Calvary Catholic Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the family. To express condolences online, please visit www.fitzgeraldfh.com.

References:

[Katherine Buchmann Obituary \(2008\) - Buchmann, IL - Rockford Register Star \(legacy.com\)](#)

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