



Charlene J. Ash

August 21, 1941 - September 13, 2023

Charlene J. Ash, 82 passed away on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at her home in Libertyville where she has been a resident since 1977. She was born August 21, 1941, in Johnsburg, IL. Charlene graduated from Northern Illinois University in 1963 and then started her career teaching Business Education in Gilman, IL in 1965. She was offered a position at Lake Forest High School, teaching there until 1967 when she left to be home with her two children, Corinne and Caryn. In 1975, Charlene returned to teaching at Waukegan High School for a brief time until she returned to Lake Forest High School in 1977. She taught Business Education and was the Pom Pon Sponsor at Lake Forest High School until her retirement in 2003. From 2003 until 2023 she remained on part time staff there as the Spirit Coordinator. Her surgeons and oncologists were amazed at her ability to tweet scores for the Athletics Department at Lake Forest from her hospital bed up until a few months before her passing.

Surviving are her daughters, Corinne and Caryn Ash; 2 grandsons, Tyler and Ryan Padilla and sister, Diane Neiss.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years Calvert Ash and parents, Leo and Martha (nee Miller) Freund.

Visitation will be from noon until the time of services at 2:00 pm on Sunday, September 24, 2023 at Burnett-Dane Funeral Home, 120 W. Park Ave in Libertyville. Interment will be at Ascension Cemetery. Memorial contributions can be made to The Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation, www.cholangiocarcino

ma.org. For info: 847-362-3009 or please share a memory at www.burnettdane.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **24.** 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Burnett-Dane Funeral Home
120 West Park Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048
(847) 362-3009

Memorial Service

SEP **24.** 2:00 PM (CT)

Burnett-Dane Funeral Home
120 West Park Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048
(847) 362-3009

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Charlene J. Ash.



September 22, 2023 at 09:46 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray* was purchased for the family of Charlene J. Ash.



September 22, 2023 at 12:32 PM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Charlene J. Ash.



September 21, 2023 at 10:46 PM



“ *Mary Lou "Lou" Vroman* planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charlene J. Ash.

Mary Lou "Lou" Vroman - September 19, 2023 at 11:14 AM

MV

“ Mary Lou "Lou" Vroman purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Charlene J. Ash.



Mary Lou "Lou" Vroman - September 19, 2023 at 11:14 AM

JP

“ Char was an incredible lady! If it wasn't for her I would have never had the incredible career I had at LFHS. Char was the person who hired me and was my first department chair. She was a fun loving, caring person to work with. She was the best department chair I had in my career. I will always have a special place in my heart for her. We had so much fun working together and her dedication to teaching and the students she worked with was something I always aspired to. I always loved catching up with Char and all the stuff she was doing and involved with. I will deeply miss her.

Joe Pulio - September 16, 2023 at 05:11 PM

CM

“ Chat without a doubt was one of my favorite people at Lake Forest High School. . Always a lady ,always had a smile and her giggle was infectious. Char was unique,amazing and an inspiration. She will never be forgotten.

Christy Mahru - September 16, 2023 at 04:51 PM

BH

“ Char was always happy, funny, helpful, and a good friend. She's missed.

Brad Hoak - September 14, 2023 at 08:33 PM

RH

I can remember taking my two kids 45 years ago and running into Char with her two daughters at Adler pool in Libertyville. Or when she taught typing at West Campus and I would sit in class sometimes and brush up on my skills to no avail. Kids loved her Roger Hartmann

Roger Hartmann - September 14, 2023 at 09:28 PM

SP

Caryn and Corrine, I'm thinking of you and sending my deepest sympathies. With love.

Sandy Petroschius - September 15, 2023 at 06:09 AM

BC

I worked on several projects with Char during our tenure at LFHS. Ate lunch with her many years. Just an all around great lady.

Bruce Cankar - September 15, 2023 at 09:24 AM

SF

Char was a bundle of energy. She spoke at the speed of light and walked at the speed of light (you could hear her clipped pace coming and going and know it was Char). As we were in the same department, I (being a rookie teacher at the age of 54) appreciated her taking me under her wing. It made those first frantic years hopeful and inspiring. Thank you Char. Rest in Peace.

Steve Forgette - September 17, 2023 at 07:05 AM

SF

Char was a wonderful person in all aspects of her life. Boundless supply of energy, always smiling. Char did so much for the Athletic Department that people don't even know about. Forever in my heart. RIP, Susan Frew

Susan E Frew - September 18, 2023 at 09:15 AM

MV

I had the good fortune to meet Char (or "Charlie" as we called her in those days) in 1959 when we were both freshmen at Northern Illinois University. She was smart and level headed, but also fun and game for an adventure, with a ready laugh. She became by classmate, my housemate, my sorority sister, my pal, and my friend through all of these years. It was a friendship I truly valued. Char was special, and I will miss her. May she rest in peace.

Mary Lou Vroman

Mary Lou Vroman - September 19, 2023 at 10:51 AM

BM

Char was kind. I learned that the first time I met her, when I was waiting for the shuttle from west to east campus, and she stopped to offer me a ride. That was also the first time I heard her girlish giggle, frequent in our conversation across town. Over the years, I continued to hear her laugh, but I was also fortunate to know her as a fellow teacher, have her as a friend, and experience so much more

Determined, goal-driven, and hard-working are words that describe my impression of her. She walked around the halls of LFHS carrying stacks of papers that seemed to overwhelm her petite frame. Students improve with feedback, she would say. As LFEA social secretary and president, she showed the same dedication, whether meticulously arranging every detail, from cookies to Santa, for the children of faculty members attending the LFEA Christmas party or patiently allowing views to be aired at a heated meeting. Whatever was said, Char, as president, grounded us, reminding us that we were a unit working for one another.

Out of the building, Char and I were struggling golf companions. At one end-of-the year golf outing, we were both awarded t-shirts saying, "I tried." The difference between us was that I would fuss and fume and get frustrated, while Char continued to play, patiently and doggedly working on her golf skills. I eventually gave up. She did not. She never did.

In the past months, I have seen that same determination. In early June, when I was at her house for a visit, I admired the potted plants and bench that made her front entrance look so inviting. She had done the potting and painting of the bench earlier in the day. In the time we spent on her lovely patio, she told me about weeding and pruning and feeding the birds. And there was that girlish giggle when she described putting vaseline on the bird feeder and watching the squirrels slide down, foiled in their efforts to hoard the bird seed.

Just a few short weeks ago, Char, Diane (Clark), and I spent the afternoon reminiscing, sharing memories from recent to distant past, laughing, tearing up, our hearts filled. As we started to leave, Char steered us toward her hostess gift, the luscious selection of Bundlets on the kitchen table. She watched as we chose, approving with her girlish giggle.

After hugging her frail frame and finding my way out the door, I heaved a sigh that turned into a sob. At this point in her life, how could she be thinking so much of others? I recalled that first ride with her, one of many acts of kindness. And her girlish giggle that expressed her joy and gave it back to me and to so many others.

In loving memory of my friend and colleague, Char, from Becky Mueller

Becky Mueller - September 23, 2023 at 11:29 PM

MR

Char was my very kind next-door neighbor and true friend for 44 years. I will miss the fun times we had line dancing and golfing and just going to lunch. Char was special and I will miss her. May she rest in peace.

Marge Rankin - October 04, 2023 at 05:35 PM