



## Dennis E. Rathjen

December 12, 1948 - April 9, 2025

IN MEMORY OF:

Dennis E. Rathjen

Serving Location:

CRAIN FUNERAL HOME – MURPHYSBORO

1421 Walnut Street, Murphysboro, Illinois

Dennis E. Rathjen, age 76, of Murphysboro, passed away on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at Memorial Hospital in Carbondale.

He was born on December 12, 1948, to Elmer and Marie (Miesner) Rathjen in Murphysboro, Illinois. On March 14, 1975, he married Doris Davis. Together they have spent over 50 years and she survives.

Dennis was a graduate of Gorham High School, class of 1966. He then served in the United States Army during Vietnam. Upon his return home from military service, he attended John A. Logan College. He started his career at Vogler Motor Co. in 1972 as a salesman, eventually becoming part owner and President. Dennis was a member of the American Legion, VFW and Christ Lutheran Church. He was past President of Murphysboro Baseball, Inc. and

was a Booster and supporter of local high school sports along with JALC and Saluki Athletics. He loved spending time with the Hill Gang at Saluki Baseball games and he coached his children in youth sports. Dennis especially loved spending time with his grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife; two daughters, Angela (Matt) Shellenbergar and Melinda Rathjen; one son, John (Morgan) Rathjen; five grandchildren, Megan Shellenbergar, Molly Shellenbergar, Andrew John Shellenbergar, Deacon Rathjen, and Baylor Rathjen; one brother, Kevin (Marla) Rathjen; brother-in-law, Bruce (Carolyn) Davis; and sister-in-law, Linda Davis.

Along with his parents, he is preceded in death by his brother-in-law, Gary Davis; and daughter Melinda's partner, Shawn Thiele.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, April 14, 2025 at 12:30 PM at the Elm Street Baptist Church in Murphysboro with Rev. Charles Allen officiating. Visitation will be held prior to the service from 10:00 AM until 12:30 PM at the church.

Interment will follow the service at Murdale Gardens of Memory with military honors by the Murphysboro American Legion and the Illinois National Guard.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions be made to Murphysboro Baseball, Inc.

Crain Funeral Home in Murphysboro is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Murdale Gardens of Memory

137 Murdale Gardens Rd  
Murphysboro, IL 62966  
(618) 687-1145  
crain@crainsonline.com

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 14. 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM (cst)

Elm Street Baptist Church  
1907 Elm St.  
Murphysboro, IL

## Funeral Service

APR 14. 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM (cst)

Elm Street Baptist Church  
1907 Elm St.  
Murphysboro, IL

## Interment with Military Honors

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APR **14**. 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM (cst)

Murdale Gardens of Memory  
137 Murdale Gardens Rd  
Murphysboro, IL 62966  
(618) 687-1145  
[crain@crainsonline.com](mailto:crain@crainsonline.com)

# Tribute Wall

CT

“ *Doris & family. I am so sorry about your husband. May God keep you in his arms in the days to come. I am praying for you. Crystal Tomas (Regions)*

Crystal Tomas - April 21, 2025 at 09:17 AM

BD

“ *Doris, John, and family sending our condolences. Dennis was a great person, our world needs more like him.*



Barry and Theresa Davis - April 14, 2025 at 08:48 PM

JA

“ *What a wonderful human being. This one stings a little more than others. Of all the wonderful, loyal saluki fans, Dennis was my favorite. No matter where he saw me, Dennis always went out of his way to come see me and say hello.*

*A week ago today, I out of nowhere, decided to leave work early and go catch the end of the first game of a double header on the hill. I had had the pleasure of sitting and talking with Dennis for a few minutes. Saluki family lost a great one. Prayers are going out for Dennis' family.*

*Jake Alley*

Jake Alley - April 14, 2025 at 11:11 AM

KE

“ Please know that the remaining family of Irene Rathjen Fink are sending our condolences to Bill’s family. Prayers also for the family.

*Ray’s Brunkhorst’s remaining family*

*Karen Brunkhorst Ewens*

*Janet Brunkhorst Porter (Dave)*

*Larry Brunkhorst (Nancy)*

*Jeff Brunkhorst (Kim)*

*Julie Brunkhorst Since (Dale)*

*Brenda Brunkhorst Lange’s remaining family*

*Jim Lange (Brenda’s husband)*

*Kim Lange Foley (Larry)*

*Melissa Lange McLaren (James)*

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**Karen Ewens** - April 14, 2025 at 10:01 AM

BP

“ He was the heart and soul of the Hill, beloved by everyone out there. His contributions to local athletics were well known, but he also did lots of small, quiet things out of sheer kindness. All thoughts are with his family and may his memory be a blessing.

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**Brian R. Plaut** - April 13, 2025 at 06:19 PM

RC

“ Am so sorry to hear of your loss. I met Dennis while I was taking care of his dad Elmer at RCCJC. Dennis was always so pleasant to talk to and you could his love for his father. I also bought several cars from him and he was always easy to work with, John is carrying on the tradition. Prayers for all his family for the loss of this good man.

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**Rosemary Cornell** - April 13, 2025 at 01:36 PM

GT

“ Our deepest condolences to Doris, John, and family members. Thinking of you at this time of sorrow. William and Grace Taylor

Grace Taylor - April 13, 2025 at 01:37 AM

CC

“ Cindie Cochran lit a candle in memory of Dennis Rathjen



Cindie Cochran - April 12, 2025 at 10:31 AM

CC

“ Cindie Cochran lit a candle in memory of Dennis Rathjen



Cindie Cochran - April 11, 2025 at 11:42 PM

CC

“ THANK YOU DENNIS FOR YOUR KIND WORDS. YOUR CARING ATTUDIE. ALWAYS MAKING ME SMILE WHEN YOU CAME IN TO VOGLER. YOU WAS BEAUTIFUL SOUL. IM SO GLAD GOD PUT YOU IN MY PATH OF LIFE. GO REST HIGH ON THAT MOUNTAIN. AND WE WILL KEEP YOUR MEMORIES ALIVE AT VOGLER. . GOD BLESS YOUR FAMILY. 🙏🙏🙏💖 CINDI COCHRAN.

Cindie Cochran - April 11, 2025 at 11:15 PM

CC

“ *Cindie Cochran lit a candle in memory of Dennis Rathjen*



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**Cindie Cochran** - April 11, 2025 at 11:07 PM

DA

“ *In memory of Denny as we called him the Hill with SIU are trying to get a bench set up on the Hill with a plaque Dan Abbott 1 of 3 founding members of the Dugout club at SIU. We will truly miss his support and team spirit R I P Denny*



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**Dan Abbott** - April 11, 2025 at 05:30 PM

JW

“ *As the two old members of the Hill Gang, we spent many times enjoying Saluki Baseball and discussing strategy and our favorite teams. Denny was my favorite Cardinal fan.—Jeff Wright*

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**Jeffrey Wright** - April 11, 2025 at 04:04 PM

JA

“ *John A. Logan College Athletics purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dennis E. Rathjen.*



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**John A. Logan College Athletics** - April 11, 2025 at 03:42 PM

BR

“ *Bill, Judy, Jeremy, Andy & Steve Rathjen purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dennis E. Rathjen.*



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**Bill, Judy, Jeremy, Andy & Steve Rathjen** - April 11, 2025 at  
02:44 PM