



Kathleen Kay Caul-Kovac

December 26, 1942 - March 26, 2021

Kathleen Kay Caul Kovac, 78, of Anna, Illinois, died peacefully at home on Friday, March 26, 2021 outliving a nasty cancer diagnosis by nearly two years and remaining feisty until the end.

She was a relatively private person and didn't like people poking their noses in her business, so we won't tell you that she was born the day after Christmas in 1942 to Theodore John "Tate" Pagel and Lillie Blanche (Pulliam) Pagel. We won't talk about her sharp business mind, her multi-million-dollar career as a real estate agent or the wall full of awards she received through the years.

We most definitely won't mention anything about how she liked yellow roses, garage sales and thrift stores, the Oak Ridge Boys and Dolly Parton, surf and turf, camping in Arkansas, the Black Hills of South Dakota, crossword puzzles, Scrabble, Italian beef sandwiches and Chicago-style hot dogs.

And lemons. Lots of lemons.

She was a loving mother and grandmother who bragged about her children and grandchildren. She was funny, generous and often ornery — she sometimes described herself to others as "Mean Kathleen," and with good reason.

We'll leave it at that, as we're well beyond the scope of what she wanted printed in the newspaper.

Kathleen is survived by her three children: Eric Christopher (Dr. Christine) Kovac, Marc Christian (Alison) Kovac and Amy (Joey Lovell) Caul. We won't tell you where they live, since she wouldn't want that. Also surviving are grandchildren Zoe, Nikolai, Levko, Andrew, Alita, Anthony and Greyson; former husbands and loving fathers, Andrew Kovac and Theodor Caul; and Sherman Lee Mays, her special companion and love for many years. She'll miss Sherman's children, including Sandra Pickel and Debbie Cunningham, and her best friend Gloria and Neil, and many others. Oh, and Toot Toot, the kitten who stayed close, especially in her final weeks.

The only thing she wanted written in her obituary, which you can read in her stylish handwriting on a piece of notebook paper penned a few months before her passing, were some lines about her faith in God and the assurance that comes to those who have put their trust in Jesus Christ: "I have stepped on shore and found it Heaven. I touch a hand and know it is God's. I breathed new air and know it is celestial. I have awakened in Heaven and find it is home. I await my special loves and sweet family."

A memorial service for Kathleen Kovac will be held on Saturday, April 3, 2021 at 1:00pm at Crain Funeral Home in Anna with Pastor Mark Hasty officiating.

In lieu of flowers, go shopping at Goodwill, or hunt for some bargains at Kroger, where she once bought a pot roast for a quarter. No fooling.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR 3. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Crain Funeral Home - Anna
135 W. Vienna St.
Anna, IL 62906
(618) 833-2176
crain@crainsonline.com

Tribute Wall

“ I met Kathleen Kay Caul Kovac—Kathy—in the early 1980s while we worked together at Century 21 in Chicago. From the moment I met her, she was a shining ray of light. Kathy walked into work each day with warmth, kindness, and a beautiful smile that could brighten any room.

She had a special love for yellow roses, and in many ways, they became her signature. Kathy would thoughtfully prepare welcome baskets for new homeowners, always including flowers—a simple but beautiful reflection of her generous heart and the care she gave to others.

Over the years, our conversations grew beyond work. We shared stories about family, our children, and life itself, and our friendship deepened. Through Kathy, I also had the privilege of getting to know her father and her boys, who were such an important part of her world.

Kathy was more than a friend—she was an inspiration. She encouraged me to believe in myself and to go after my dreams. Her faith in me helped shape the strong woman I became, and for that, I will always be grateful.

One of the greatest honors of my life was standing beside her, along with my two daughters, in her wedding to Ted. It was such a beautiful moment to witness the joy and love she carried into that new chapter of her life.

Kathy was truly an amazing person—kind, loving, thoughtful, and unforgettable. I feel so blessed and grateful to have had her in my life. She has held, and will always hold, a very special place in my heart.

Like the yellow roses you loved so much, your kindness and beautiful spirit will continue to bloom in my heart forever. Rest peacefully, Kathy.

Susan Hartley - May 08 at 12:06 PM



“ *Kathleen Kay Caul-Kovac*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Kathleen Kay Caul-Kovac.*



April 01, 2021 at 08:53 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kathleen Kay Caul-Kovac.*



April 01, 2021 at 03:39 AM



“ *She was a regular every morning at Travel Hut. Every one loved her. She was a fantastic lady!*

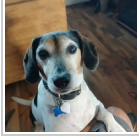
Brenda Kelley - March 31, 2021 at 08:28 PM

TC

“ *Ted Caul purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Kathleen Kay Caul-Kovac.*



Ted Caul - March 31, 2021 at 11:32 AM



“ I met Kathleen in 1981 when I was and Assistant VP and Branch Manager, and she was a Century 21 superstar. I took her loan application and she started coming to the bank with her accounts. She amazed me with her big personality, humor , and business drive.

We got married in the Lutheran Church and I joined to please Kathleen. We had a wonderful Pastor.

Amy came along in 1984 and we were very happy. I also accepted Kathleen's 2 boys.

The marriage ended in 1986 for many reasons many of them were due to disagreements and my drinking.

A miracle happened in 2001 when I got sober and we became friends again. I also got another degree and became a special education teacher. Kathleen and Sherman even came to my wedding in 2005 Amy and my sister helping us. As God would have it my second wife Gayl and Kathleen got along famously as good Christians. Gayl passed in 2015 and Kathleen was there for support.

Thank you Sherman for all your kindness to our family and Kathleen.

Over this period Kathleen called me many time and supported my well being with cards and gifts to boost my spirits. We both worked to support our Daughter in any way we could.

I retired from teaching in 2020 and have moved here as of October. Life has gone full circle.

I pray that Kathleen is at peace with Jesus and loved ones now. I know all her service to humanity will be rewarded with an honored seat at Jesus's table. Thank you for a life well lived.

In Jesus's name Amen.

Ted Caul - March 30, 2021 at 10:56 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Kathleen Kay Caul-Kovac.*



March 29, 2021 at 10:00 PM



“ *Kathy is the best friend I ever had. I remember when we used to go to Toto to go to Bailey's it was always so much fun. I will remember her every time I go to Bailey's. She will be truly missed. I always look forward to her Christmas cards every year.*

*With great sympathy and love
Marilyn*

Marilyn Chilli - March 29, 2021 at 09:30 PM