



## Lurene Lois Connor

July 19, 1938 - March 23, 2023

IN MEMORY OF:

Lurene Connor

Serving Location:

CRAIN FUNERAL HOME – MURPHYSBORO

1421 Walnut Street, Murphysboro, Illinois

Lurene Connor lived between July 19th, 1938, and March 23rd, 2023. She was born to Genevieve and Vernon Michels in McLeansboro, IL and grew up on a farm in southern Edwards county near Albion, IL. She is survived by her son, Mike Connor (Denise), brother Lawrence Michels (Patsy), sister Debera (Richard Kleinshmidt), and lots of family scattered around the country, all of whom will miss her very much.

She was many things, but most visibly she a pianist and organist, a schoolteacher of forty years, philanthropist, a thimble and nativity collector, and a prolific gardener. She was always looking for ways to help people she met from merely giving encouragement to helping cars, houses, and education assistance directly and indirectly. She leaves behind many students, clubs, organizations, lots of family, and legions of people she

cherished and whose lives she touched directly and indirectly.

During her working years, she was a teacher in the McLeansboro and primarily the Murphysboro school districts, played the organ and for the United Methodist Church and St. Peter's churches in Murphysboro, and was a very active in philanthropic activities.

Her teaching career started in McLeansboro teaching high school after graduating from Southern Illinois University. After a few years she moved to Murphysboro, IL where most people knew her as the district elementary librarian, handling all the grade schools and middle schools. She spent her final ten years teaching third grade at McElvain school where it was common for former students to try maneuver their children into her classroom.

During her retirement years, she was even busier, doing much more philanthropic work, continuing to play the piano and organ for various churches, traveling the country coast to coast and top to bottom going to various conventions, seeing the sights, and visiting people. It also gave her more time to expand her flower beds, covering most of the front yards of hers and neighboring house.

Her philanthropic activities include the ESA, a nationwide organization that primarily supports St. Jude's Children's Hospital and various scholarship funds ([www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org](http://www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org)). She held various officer positions such as Illinois treasurer and state president and setting up the ESA Second Chance Scholarship fund. Around Murphysboro, she helped with the General John A Logan Museum, the Murphysboro food pantry, the St. Joseph's Hospital Auxiliary scholarships, the various Murphysboro and Carbondale churches, the Beth Jacob synagogue, and probably quite a few more.

Memorials can be made to the St. Joseph's Hospital Auxiliary scholarship

fund:

Attn: Taylor Richelman

Saint Joseph Memorial Hospital

2 Hospital Drive

Murphysboro, IL 62966

The Celebration of Life service hosted by the family will be 1:00 PM, May 6th, 2023, at the First Presbyterian Church in Murphysboro, IL. The address is 51 Crescent Dr., Murphysboro, IL 62966.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAY 6. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (cst)

First Presbyterian Church

# Tribute Wall



“ *Lurene Lois Connor*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *cynthia Y. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Lurene Lois Connor.*



**cynthia Y.** - March 28, 2023 at 11:15 PM

JA

“ So many great & fun memories of Lurene through my almost 32 years in Epsilon Sigma Alpha, she was a charter member of Beta Psi and so proud of all the chapter did in the Murphysboro area. She served many years in the IL State Council Executive Board becoming president 2001-2002 with the theme *Brighten Your Corner*.



Lurene was one of kind and had a heart of gold, she would do anything for anyone and supported her family, friends, and students. she was beyond proud of her son Mike and all his accomplishments. She was fiercely independent and drove many times to both coasts of the US by herself. We had many fun ESA adventures to ESA International Council conventions together, she served as one my administrative assistant when I was IC President and drive a very large photo of my logo across the miles. I admired her wisdom, quick wit, dry sense of humor, & tenacity. She had a been through a lot in life and had a great approach to it, she never wanted to burden anyone, she lived life to the fullest. Over the last several years, she had been decluttering her home and every now & then a box of her treasures (either ESA, elephants, or July birthstone ruby collectibles) would show up at my door with a shirt note, how thoughtful of her to share with me. When Mike told me she was hospice and was bed ridden, I thought how she must of hated it and because there was no hope, I did have a chance to talk to her, she said her same, hello beautiful...I said what did you get yourself into now, she laughed, and I did too through tears, I told her to take care, and said I love you, she said take care dear. She left this world just a few days later and is now dancing with the angels. She definitely brighten my corner and will be greatly missed. RIP sweet friend.

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jamie Atchison - March 26, 2023 at 04:29 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Lurene Lois Connor.



March 26, 2023 at 04:14 PM



“ Mrs. Connor was my beloved third grade teacher in 1993-1994. I don't know any student who attended McElvain school who didn't love her. She was quirky, fun, had a beaming smile that could light up any room and having “pet” hamsters in her classroom was always a favorite. I last saw her a couple of years ago and we had a wonderful chat. Sending love to her family.

**Stephanie Gladson** - March 25, 2023 at 12:05 PM



“ Mike and Denise I am so sorry for the loss of your mother. Wonderful lady that held true to her beliefs. May her memories be with you always.

**Barbara Cosgrove** - March 25, 2023 at 11:05 AM



“ Mike and Denise you are in our thoughts and prayers at this time. Lurene was a very special lady to both Bill and I. She would do anything for us. Illinois has lost a wonderful lady and ESA member. May she Rest In Peace.

**Bill and Joyce Webb** - March 24, 2023 at 04:47 PM