



## Ruby Catherine "Kay" Bozarth

April 15, 1930 - February 28, 2020

Ruby "Kay" Bozarth, age 89 of Murphysboro, passed away, Friday, February 28, 2020, in Jacksonville Skilled Nursing Home.

Kay was born in Johnston City, Illinois on April 15, 1930 to John and Etta (Logan) Fletcher.

Kay was a cheerleader in high school and a SIU cheerleader. At SIU she met and married Ernie Bozarth who preceded her in death in 1999. She was an owner/operator of a Beauty Salon for 38 years.

She was a member of the United Methodist Church and Sunday School class, welcoming committee and staff relations committee. She was a member of P.E.O. She started the first Apple Festival Scholarship Tea and was also a Co-Chair of the Apple Festival Prayer Breakfast for 7 years. She was also a founder of the John A. Logan Museum and Breakfast. She was a founder of Table-Scapes that funded historical preservation for Murphysboro and Carbondale. She founded the Murphysboro Reads Volunteer Program for all first-grade students in Murphysboro. After the death of her husband in 1999, she was instrumental in forming the Ernie Bozarth Basketball League for third, fourth and fifth grade students.

She was a supporter of Red Devil Basketball, SIU Basketball, and SIU Girls

Golf. She was a volunteer for SIU Arts and Education as well as volunteering for Thanksgiving and Christmas community dinners.

She received the Apple Festival Founder's Award in 2006, the Diana Award from Beta Psi Chapter in 2008, the Alpha Kappa Society Award for Literacy in 2009, and the General John A. Logan Founder Award in 2011. She was inducted into the Murphysboro Athletic Hall of Fame in 2018 and the Murphysboro Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame in 2018.

She was also a 50-year member of Eastern Star and an RTA member. She was appointed to the Murphysboro District 186 Education Foundation Board in 2009 and served on the Murphysboro Distinguished Alumni Board.

Her pride was in her children, grandchildren, and great family and friends. She loved walking, golfing and working in her yard.

She is survived by a daughter, Christie (Chuck) Higgs of Katy, Texas; a son, Kent (Mary) Bozarth of Jacksonville, Illinois; two grandchildren, Ashley (Trevor) Abramson of Katy, Texas and Cole (Channing) Bozarth of Coffeen, Illinois; two great grandchildren, Quinn Olivia Abramson, and Wyatt William Abramson, both of Katy, Texas; a brother, Jack Fletcher of Marion, Illinois; a sister, Marian Mauzy of Marion, Illinois; as well as many nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ernie Bozarth; her parents, John and Etta Fletcher; sisters, Helen (John) Baker; Audra (Carl) Brow and Rose (Delmar) Mitchell; brothers, Cecil Fletcher and Vergil (Violet) Fletcher, brother-in-laws, Kenneth Mauzy; Carl Brown; Delmar Mitchell and John Baker, a nephew, Tom Baker and a son-in-law, Charles Higgs.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

A Memorial Service for Kay Bozarth will be held at a later date.

Inurnment was private in Murdale Gardens of Memory.

In lieu of flowers, the family request that your expressions of love be given to the Ernie Bozarth Memorial Fund and/or the Apple Festival Scholarship Tea and will be accepted at the memorial service.

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## **Murdale Gardens of Memory**

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

# Events

**Details are pending.**

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ruby Catherine "Kay" Bozarth*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *She walked around our neighborhood. Sometimes I walked with her. Sweet Sweet lady!*

**patty arbeiter** - April 07, 2020 at 11:16 AM



“ *My husband, Jerry Soehlke, played in the golf tournaments that Ruby started in her husband's name. The Soehlke family and the Fletcher family from Collinsville were best friends. Jerry loved this weekend and playing golf with Mike and Marc Fletcher. She was a lovely lady and I am sure will be sadly missed. Jerry died May 13th and I am sure they are sharing their golf stories in heaven. Jane Soehlke*

**Jane Soehlke** - March 05, 2020 at 11:25 AM



“ *Living down the road from Kent, I was at his house quite often. Kay always greeted me with a smile and a question, "Are you boys hungry?". Always with the pleasant voice even when we got ourselves into mischief. I remember her and my Mom coming to pick us up at the police station after being picked up for curfew violation. I think they were both saving us from the wrath of our Dads. But here she came to get us with the same pleasant voice especially since it was her house we snuck out of to go to town. What a classy lady. She was one of my favorite Moms.*

**Paul Hails** - February 29, 2020 at 03:09 PM