



Kathryn "Kay" Leona DePue

September 20, 1919 - October 27, 2012

DePue, Kathryn "Kay" Leona
Grand Ledge

Age 93, passed away October 27, 2012 in the presence of her family in Leipsic, OH. She was born September 20, 1919 in Hudsonville, Michigan to the late Benjamin and Jeanette (Everse) Douma. Kay graduated from Hudsonville High School in 1937 and Hope College in 1941. In 1947 she came to Grand Ledge and began a long career there teaching English and Journalism initially but soon was able to teach a subject which for which she was truly passionate when she became a Latin teacher. Enrollment in Kay's Latin classes and the related Latin Club gained national notoriety as one of the largest, most enthusiastic groups in the country. Kay was very active in her sorority, Delta Kappa Gamma, as well as numerous groups that supported the Classics in education. Kay retired from Grand Ledge in 1981 but continued to substitute teach until she was over 80 years old. She continued to tutor Latin students in her home past her 90th birthday. Kay was a member of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ where she remained active until moving to Leipsic, Ohio to be closer to her grandchildren. She met the love of her life and soul mate, Phillip H. DePue in the church choir and they married in 1952. He preceded her in death in 1987. She is survived by her sister, Adrianna (Russell) Rutgers of Holland, Michigan; two sons, Daniel B. DePue of Grand Ledge and Mark P (Jane) DePue of Leipsic, Ohio; grandchildren, Corinne M (Karl) Beining and Philip E. DePue, both of Leipsic,

Ohio and numerous nieces and nephews. A funeral service will be held Wednesday, October 31, 2012, 11:00am at First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Grand Ledge. Interment will follow at the Needmore Cemetery. Visitation Tuesday, 2-4 and 6-8pm at Holihan-Atkin Funeral Home, Grand Ledge. In Lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions may be made to Putnam County Hospice 139 Court Street Ottawa, OH 45875. Online condolences and memories at www.holihanatkin.com

Cemetery Details

Needmore Cemetery

351 West Needmore Highway
Charlotte, MI 48813

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **30**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home & Cremation Services
406 N. Bridge Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
(517) 627-2531
jasonbarclay@holihanatkin.com
<https://www.holihanatkin.com>

Visitation

OCT **30**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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Service

OCT **31**. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Congregational United Church of Christ
210 W. Saginaw Hwy
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Tribute Wall

KW

“ On this All Saints Day, another former GLHS teacher let me know that we lost a saint in the teaching profession. Blessed to have Magistra Kay DePue as my Latin instructor from 1969-72, I had always wanted to be a teacher, but she was an inspiration to me in ways that words cannot express. Like my classmate Tom mentioned in an earlier tribute on this page, I have never forgotten the first paragraph of Caesar's Gallic Wars. Latin didn't just live; it THRIVED at the address, "Kay DePue, Room 52," complete with a door draped in black on the Ides of March and a sunlit replica of Winged Victory standing guard in the back corner. My unforgettable memories of Magistra's demanding but enjoyable classes, Latin Club, and Junior Classical League events are dear to my heart. I wonder if my derivatives notebook is tucked away in a box someplace...

Like my mentor, I, too, became a Hope College alumna (she took her Latin III class on a field trip there my junior year). Graduating with a minor in Latin, I was fortunate to get a teaching job in Traverse City where the Latin program had retired along with the instructor. Although never teaching Latin itself on a daily basis, I used it in my English classes regularly and taught some exploratory Latin in Upward Bound. I am glad that she knew I became--and loved being--a teacher, and she knew that she was responsible for leading me onto that path.

In the parking lot behind her classroom, I remember seeing a blue spherical triangle National Education Association decal on her lemon meringue-colored Mustang with the LATIN custom license plate, thinking it was just a cool-looking sticker. Magistra was proof that involvement in the union and excellence in teaching could go hand in hand, and unbeknownst to her, she inspired me once again as I led my local association and now work for MEA/NEA.

So many times since I last saw her--way too many years ago at her retirement dinner--I have thought of her fondly and thought, "I need to get in touch with Mrs. DePue." I never did, and it breaks my

heart. I do take comfort knowing that she was aware of the significant impact she had in my life.

To Magistra's family and friends, may your memories of the amazing Kay DePue make you laugh and smile, may you take comfort in the arms and hearts of the many who are there for you during these difficult times, and may you be proud that you knew this amazing woman who impacted countless lives for the better.

*Kay Moores Walker
Grand Ledge High School '72 Hope College '76
Traverse City, MI*

Kay Walker - November 01, 2012 at 02:04 PM

DD

“*I was fortunate to have Mrs. DePue for Latin, where she corrected all of my English training at the same time. At no time during my entire education process (including undergraduate two graduate degrees) have I ever had another instructor who had the passion, dedication and professionalism displayed every single day by Mrs. DePue. Even when we didn't properly prepare or displayed an immature "high school attitude", she NEVER wavered. There is a very long line of "latin scholars" whose lives were permanently changed for the better by Mrs. DePue.*

*David D'Annunzio
Grand Ledge High School
Class of 1982*

David D'Annunzio - October 30, 2012 at 03:52 PM



“ *Heavenly Light was purchased for the family of Kathryn "Kay" Leona DePue.*



October 30, 2012 at 11:53 AM



“ *Heavenly Light was purchased for the family of Kathryn "Kay" Leona DePue.*



October 30, 2012 at 11:52 AM



“ *My sincerest sympathies to the family of Mrs. DePue. I had her for English in the '60s where she tried her hardest to change my penmanship ~ she didn't like the way I dotted my i's. I think of her everytime I dot one still! She was an excellent teacher ~ one who made learning enjoyable. Cheryl Boyce Humphrey ~ Class of '66*

Cheryl Boyce Humphrey - October 30, 2012 at 09:24 AM

LS

“ There it was.....a flashing light on my answering machine, as I returned home from a motorcycle ride a few years ago. The message was from Gary Noble (see below), saying that he was sitting in the living room of Kay DePue, wishing that I had been home so we could have had a conference call.

The next day I called the number he left. It was Kay's number, and we had a delightful conversation. We concluded by arranging for me to pay a visit, and a few weeks later I spent a delightful four hours with her at her home.

Kay was one of the best teachers I had at GLHS. My first encounter was, of course, in her Latin classes in my freshman & sophomore years. She made learning Latin a fun experience! Like Gary, I also took journalism from her as well and continue to have opportunities to use those communication skills learned there.

But the most vivid application occurred a few years ago. I was in Guatemala with the Christian Motorcyclist's Association as we gave away motorcycles to native pastors to assist them in their ministry. At one church this was done during their normal Sunday worship and naturally, the pastor's message was given in Spanish. I had never taken Spanish, but remembered enough of my Latin (and Kay's statement early-on in our Latin I class of the similarity between Latin and Spanish) that I could generally follow the pastor's message.

I'm thankful that I had a chance to thank Kay personally for her commitment to excellence. She made a difference in my life! May those who are left behind take comfort knowing that her influence in the lives of others still continues.

Lee Shipman - October 29, 2012 at 12:27 PM

TA

“ To the family of Kay DePue: I thought Kay was a great lady. She lived a great live, and was sharp of mind into her 90's. We enjoyed her as a tax client. She has gone home. May pease be with all of you in this knowledge. We'll send a donation to Putnam County Hospice.

Tom Johnson, EA ABA

Tracy KuyKendol

Joyce Bohne

Eastside Tax & Accounting LLC

Tom Johnson, EA, ABA - October 29, 2012 at 07:11 AM

GM

“ Kay, or Mrs. DePue, as we students called her, was one of the most memorable and inspirational teachers I have ever had. As a graduate of Grand Ledge High School in 1953, she was a phenomenal teacher and mentor in Latin class and the Latin Club, with the most memorable Latin Club events. She was also a formidable force for good in publishing the high school newspaper. Lee Shipman and I had a very delightful lunch with Kay and Mrs. Dorothy Kraft just a few years ago, and they were in excellent form. pulishing. A legion of students are better off for the influence that Kay DePue had in their lives, and she will be missed. May she rest in peace. Gary Noble, Stone Mountain, GA

Gary R. Noble, MD - October 28, 2012 at 09:52 PM