



Mertie Kay Swangstu

August 10, 1943 - June 14, 2021

Mertie Kay Swangstu, 77, of Beloit passed away peacefully on June 14, 2021 at University Hospital, Madison.

Born on August 10, 1943 in Viroqua, WI, Mertie was the daughter of Cyrus and Lois Fortney. Growing up as an only child, her horse was her best friend. She attended Viroqua High School, where she met the love of her life, Roger Swangstu. She and Roger were named Homecoming Queen and King in 1960.

After graduation, Mertie attended La Crosse State College and earned a degree in elementary education. She married her high school sweetheart, Roger, at Good Shepherd Church in Viroqua on April 2, 1966. The young couple moved to Beloit after Mertie was recruited to teach in the school district there.

Mertie was a beloved first grade teacher for 31 years. She shared her passion for learning with thousands of children during that time. She helped each of her students feel successful and special. After retirement, Mertie continued to work with children by mentoring at Robinson Elementary School. Her former students and their parents remember her as an extraordinary teacher.

Mertie was a member of the Beloit Education Association and Our Savior's Lutheran Church. She volunteered for Meals on Wheels and enjoyed participating in Beloit's Civic Theatre. She loved to sing, often singing for weddings of friends and family members. Mertie also had an enduring love of animals, especially manatees, and she donated generously to organizations

that worked to save them. Watching Hallmark movies and reading were among her favorite pasttimes.

Mertie was a kind and gentle person, who loved spending time with her family and many friends. She spread joy to whomever she met. She is fondly remembered for her warmth, generosity and sense of humor.

Mertie is survived by her husband, Roger, her two children, Jason and Alexis (William) Mosher, and four grandchildren, Storm Swangstu, Tieraney Swangstu, and Cyrus and Waylon Mosher. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Services will be held on June 24, 2021 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church with visitation beginning at 10:00 a.m. followed by a memorial service at 11:00 a.m. Rosman Funeral Home is assisting the family. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Mertie may be made to Parkinson's Foundation. www.parkinson.org Mertie lost a cherished sister-in-law to the disease. To express online condolences, please visit: www.rosmanfuneralhome.com. 364-4477

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **24**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
749 Bluff Street
Beloit, WI 53511

Memorial Services

JUN **24**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
749 Bluff Street
Beloit, WI 53511

Tribute Wall



“ I moved in 1st grade around Christmas time to Illinois. I'll always remember her. I actually decided, today to look her up online and it's upsetting that after 25 years of not seeing her, that she'd past away 2 months ago... I remember before I left, she handmade me a Christmas reef with candy all over it in front of the whole class. It was amazing! I'm sure she lives a great life. My condolences to family and friends.

Kyle Wightman - August 20, 2021 at 11:06 PM

KH

“ I'm so sorry for your terrible loss. I just saw this notice and I feel so bad that missed Dear Mertie's funeral. She was always so good and kind to our family. We just recently spoke on the phone and talked about how she made big bunny footprints out of paper to place throughout the house when we visited her parents' house as little kids. Mertie was an Earth Angel throughout her whole life. I hope and pray that you feel her with you always in your heart. Praying for comfort.

Kathleen Hagen - July 17, 2021 at 12:50 PM

JA

“ Roger and family, so very sorry for your loss. I remember Mert from high school. Very kind and happy lady. RIP...Fly High. You have earned your wings.

Janet Dustin Allen - July 17, 2021 at 11:46 AM

DS

“ Roger, I remember helping you carry that big Grand Father clock in the house years ago. I'm so sorry for your loss. Don Spencer B.P.D. Retired

Donald L. Spencer - July 03, 2021 at 04:56 PM

L(

“ I was also a student of hers in 1st grade. I respected and loved her so much, I never wanted to leave her class. When she sent me a graduation card I was so touched I cried. I've thought about her my entire life, and will remember her always. Rest in Peace, you left a positive mark on so many.
Laurie Goodwick (Sprecher)

Laurie Goodwick (Sprecher) - July 03, 2021 at 10:22 AM

EC

“ Roger, sincerest condolences for you and your family.

Eddie Caldwell



Eddie Caldwell - June 28, 2021 at 10:20 AM

CE

“ Roger and Family, I am so sorry for your loss. Mertie was one of my favorite customers when she shopped at the store. She was always happy and considerate of us. She made my day many times with a hug and a smile.

Carolee Emmel June 24, 2021

Carolee Emmel - June 24, 2021 at 11:07 AM

DM

“*Mertie was one of those people that just radiated love. We were fortunate to have her as a wonderful teacher of our two children, who adored her. She was a teaching colleague at Robinson and a friend always. Mertie lived by the mantra "Be a little kinder than is necessary" and we were all the recipients of that kindness. Thinking of her now in glory, free from pain and seeing the face of her Lord.*
Terry and Debbie McCann

Deb McCann - June 24, 2021 at 10:38 AM

JT

“*To Mrs. Swangstu:*

You were my first grade teacher; you were my ray of sunshine every day. I vividly remember your kindest, sincerity and love of teaching. You showed compassion to all of us and were always there - always; even when I graduated high school, a card from Mrs Swangstu showed up. Keep shining Mrs. Swangstu; you're the best
- Janet Steuck

Janet Taylor - June 22, 2021 at 09:49 PM

DT

“*Roger and family, sending my deepest condolences to you all. Mertie was such a joy to get to know during my tenure at Teachers Credit Union. She will be missed. You are all in my prayers.*
Darla Zane-Thill

Darla Thill - June 22, 2021 at 05:35 PM

RF

“ Ray Fields lit a candle in memory of Mertie Kay Swangstu



ray fields - June 22, 2021 at 05:19 PM

RT

“ Roger, Alexis and family and Jason and boys
We just learned this morning of Mertie’s passing. Want you all to know how sorry we are. Merited was a joy to be around. The contributions she made to all will never be forgotten,
Love
Dick and Barb Thomas

Richard and Barb Thomas - June 22, 2021 at 10:33 AM

KM

“ Dear Roger, Jason, Alexis and grandchildren,
Mertie made family where ever she went. We often talked about me having four siblings and her an only child. Yet, Mertie's friends and her colleagues became her family.
She was so inclusive of those she met, so positive and willing to be supportive. I will miss you Mertie, our Friday visits had become a habit.
Love,
Kathy McNamee and family

Kathy E. McNamee - June 22, 2021 at 07:40 AM

RF

“ Wish to extend our sincere sympathy to family and friends.

Robert Fortney - June 21, 2021 at 08:58 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mertie Kay Swangstu.*



June 21, 2021 at 08:28 PM



“ *Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Mertie Kay Swangstu.*



June 21, 2021 at 02:58 PM



“ *Roger, Jason, Alexis and family,
We are heartbroken. We send our love and prayers to you all! Mertie was such a special person and friend. We have so many memories over the years together. Lots of laughs! We know she will be greatly missed by all who loved her and were every acquainted with her. Praying for you all to find comfort and peace.*



We love you! Doug and Diane

Doug and Diane Mitchell - June 21, 2021 at 10:55 AM

SA

“ *Sue Abrahamson lit a candle in memory of Mertie Kay Swangstu*



Sue Abrahamson - June 20, 2021 at 06:34 PM

SB

“ *Mertie...thank you for making a positive difference for so many by sharing your time, love and wisdom....may you continue to do so along side our loving lord....you will be missed but we know your good works will be on-going...*

Steven Bjornstad

Steve Bjornstad - June 20, 2021 at 01:15 PM