



Cynthia Van Zetten

October 3, 1950 - April 6, 2020

Cynthia Lee Van Zetten, 69, of Oskaloosa, passed away on Monday, April 6, 2020 at UnityPoint Methodist Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa. She was born on October 3, 1950 in Comfrey, Minnesota, the daughter of Maynard and Audree (Saunders) Johnson. She attended North Mahaska High School and graduated with the Class of 1968. After graduating high school, she attended college at Northeast Missouri State and later William Penn College, earning a bachelor's degree in Psychology with minors in Sociology and Art. On October 7, 1970, she was united in marriage to Edward Oakie in Kirksville, MO. To this union two children, Blaine and Heather, were born. They later divorced. On September 23, 1977, she was united in marriage to Gary Van Zetten. To this union a daughter, Holland, was born.

Cynthia worked as a radiology technician and small business manager prior to beginning her teaching career at Eddyville-Blakesburg High School in 1992. She later transferred to Oskaloosa High School, retiring in 2013. Cynthia enjoyed making treats (best known for her popcorn balls, divinity, fudge and Rice Krispie treats), entertaining, antiques, and playing Scrabble with her children (very competitively)! Above all else, the witty, outgoing, and one-of-a-kind "Cincee" loved connecting with family and friends. She saw the good in everyone and impacted many lives, making each and every person feel special. Her legacy can be remembered by one of her favorite quotes, "They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel." ~ C. Buechner.

Cynthia's family includes her children Blaine (Angie) Oakie of Ankeny, Iowa, Heather (Fero) Katona of Bloomfield, New Jersey and Holland (Eric) Taylor of Ankeny, Iowa; her grandchildren, Hannah and Joseph Oakie, and Dylan and Avery Taylor. She is also survived by her sister Penelope Boger of Oskaloosa, Iowa; nephews Brent (Christy) Winner of St. Petersburg, FL and Eric (Angela) Winner of Overland Park, KS; niece Keri (Randy) Readshaw of Oskaloosa, IA; and countless dearly beloved friends.

Cynthia was preceded in death by her parents.

As was her wish, Cynthia's body has been cremated. Due to the restrictions put in place by the Iowa Department of Public Health, a private family memorial service will be held at Bates Funeral Chapel on Saturday, April 11, 2020 at 11am with the burial following at Friends Cemetery in New Sharon. The family invites you to attend the service virtually via Facebook Live. The recorded service will also be made available through Bates' YouTube channel for future viewing. Memorials may be made to New Sharon First Christian Church and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mahaska County.

Comments



“ Sincerely from Angela Franklin, President of DMU purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Cynthia Van Zetten.



Sincerely from Angela Franklin, President of DMU - April 11 at 12:32 PM



“ I didn't know Cynthia very long. I met her while I was working at the Oskaloosa High School. She was the sweetest, most lovely lady...God bless her and her family.

Sally Houser - April 11 at 09:32 AM



“ Blaine, Heather, and Holland, I am so sorry for your loss. It's hard to believe that she's passed. I've read over these comments and see how much your mom was so dearly loved and appreciated for all she gave to everyone she knew. I remember those summer days in grade school going over to your house in Fremont. She was at work quite a bit, but whenever she was home, she was always really nice and she made everyone feel welcomed. I never saw her angry. I never heard her raise her voice other than to call you into the house or into another room. She smiled a lot.

Anyone can look at you guys and see your mom. So every time you look into a mirror or when you look at each other, there she'll be. My heart goes out to you.

Rex

Rex Butler - April 11 at 08:34 AM



“ Blain Heather and Holly, I have so many wonderful memories of your Mom. It is so hard to say goodbye. She will live in your hearts and in the hearts of all the people to who she has been a Friend and taught. Love and Hugs Sharon Burke.

Sharon K Burke - April 10 at 10:13 PM



“ Carol Gordon And Family lit a candle in memory of Cynthia Van Zetten



Carol Gordon and Family - April 10 at 09:27 PM



“ PA Class of 2020 purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Cynthia Van Zetten.



PA Class of 2020 - April 10 at 05:41 PM



“ PA Class of 2021 purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Cynthia Van Zetten.



PA Class of 2021 - April 10 at 05:38 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Cassie Chapman - April 10 at 05:12 PM



“ My son Roger played baseball with Blaine and when my wife passed away She brought a us delicious dinner. Blaine, Heather and Holly you have my deepest sympathy
Dale Sullivan

Dale Sullivan - April 10 at 12:31 PM



“ Rodney Briggs and Brad Emrick purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Cynthia Van Zetten.



Rodney Briggs and Brad Emrick - April 10 at 10:59 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Cynthia Van Zetten.



April 10 at 10:48 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Cynthia Van Zetten.



April 10 at 10:02 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Robin White - April 09 at 10:50 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Robin White - April 09 at 09:58 PM



“ Kimberley Kerr-Barber lit a candle in memory of Cynthia Van Zetten



Kimberley Kerr-Barber - April 09 at 09:42 PM



“ Deepest condolences to the family. Cynthia was my daughter's teacher in high school. She was outstanding, dedicated, and passionate about teaching her students. I appreciated her so very much and will never forget her!

Kimberley Kerr-Barber - April 09 at 09:48 PM



“ Robin White lit a candle in memory of Cynthia Van Zetten



Robin White - April 09 at 09:42 PM



“ Sorry for your loss Penny and family. Cynthia was a fun person to have as a friend. I remember when she was younger she drove a Cadillac to look younger and when she got more mature she got a sportier car. We laughed about and so many other times. Loved her so

Charlotte caves - April 09 at 09:37 PM



“ Mrs. VanZetten was an amazing teacher at OHS. I know she helped my son. He probably would not have graduated without her. She helped me help him. She would always make time for us. She will be missed. Rest in peace... <3

Cindy G - April 09 at 09:33 PM



“ Cynthia was an inspirational, loving and fun person to talk to and be around....it don't feel real that she is gone. Cynthia was my teacher in high school and she would help me with anything I needed help with or if I needed someone to talk to she was there....we would also just talk and order take out and laugh.....i still have her posters she gave me when she retired from teaching....when I graduated from high school we still talked here and there....i also send my condolences to Cynthia family....I can't imagine what your going though



Jean Luzadder - April 09 at 08:28 PM



“ rest in peace you was such a nice person and a nice teacher I dropped out of school and you was there to talk to me and help me get back into school and help me through I will never forget you rest in peace



elizabeth stout - April 09 at 07:31 PM



“ Such a beautiful person and, in my mind, a high class lady who loved her children in everything they did. She threw herself into the education scene and work diligently with students who had struggles and had low esteem. She magically pulled those kids to be achievers in how they approached school.

Godspeed to you Cynthia. I am proud to say I know you as a friend and fellow employee.

To the kids.... carry her legacy with you everyday.

Pat Powers - April 09 at 06:27 PM



“ Penny and family
So sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
Patti and Robert Mitrisin

Patti Mitrisin - April 09 at 05:34 PM



“ Cynthia and I went to college at William Penn together. We were both non-traditional students in a program full of students much younger than us. Later when we both got teaching jobs in Oskaloosa we reconnected. Cynthia was one of the kindest and most caring people I have had the pleasure to know. She will be missed.

Dana Hols - April 09 at 05:19 PM



“ I got to know Cynthia as a substitute teacher and my what a wonderful lady I got to know! I witnessed her compassion to kids that truly needed a boost. What I saw was incredible! She was one of a kind with an emphasis on KIND!! My sympathies to her family. I think all of us who knew her have a hole in our hearts this week.

Elie Ford - April 09 at 04:12 PM



“ What a beautiful lady inside and out. She was a wonderful friend and colleague to me. She loved her students, her family and her friends. God received a true angel. She will be dearly missed! My thoughts and prayers go out to her family. Amy Simmons (OHS)

Amy Simmons - April 09 at 03:56 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Cynthia Van Zetten.



April 09 at 03:10 PM



“ Melody DeHeer lit a candle in memory of Cynthia Van Zetten



Melody DeHeer - April 09 at 02:21 PM



“ I have fond memories of her co-directing plays with Sandra Sklavos at EBHS, and I remember feeling thrilled when she hired me to film Holly's wedding because it was the first time I'd been paid for anything like that. She was a genuinely nice person.

Eric Chicas - April 09 at 01:59 PM



“ Sincerest sympathy to all who loved this uniquely special lady. She will be missed.♡

Lynn Hodgeman - April 09 at 12:46 PM



“ Don & Sherri Clark lit a candle in memory of Cynthia Van Zetten



Don & Sherri Clark - April 09 at 12:46 PM



“ Cynthia was always so much fun to talk with. Such a positive person.
Cherol Brown

Cherol Brown - April 09 at 12:10 PM



“ Heather, Blaine and Holland you have my deepest sympathy! I am tremendously saddened for your loss. The memory of your Mother will give you comfort, and her legacy live through you all! God Bless your family.

Linda Bussiculo



Linda Bussiculo - April 09 at 11:43 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Cynthia Van Zetten.



April 09 at 11:27 AM



“ Cynthia was a true friend through thick and thin she was one that always wanted to look her best before she walked out the door we went camping years ago and she would not come out of the tent till she had her makeup on she was a beautiful beautiful lady and even though I didn't see much of her when I did see her it was like we had never been apart and she also made the best popcorn balls in the world so sorry for your loss I pray God's peace on you all

Shelvie - April 09 at 11:01 AM



“ Sharon Burke lit a candle in memory of Cynthia Van Zetten



Sharon Burke - April 09 at 10:33 AM



“ U will be missed and a great teacher will be missed by the class see u again some day

Daniel Allison - April 09 at 10:30 AM



“ When I heard of Mrs. Van Zetten's passing my heart broke. She was such an amazing teacher and made a huge impact in my life when I first moved to Eddyville. I will miss her dearly, she will always hold a special place in my heart. Many prayers to all her family.



“ Leilani Tremmel lit a candle in memory of Cynthia Van Zetten



Leilani Tremmel - April 09 at 10:09 AM