



Marie Corenne Kempher

November 30, 1915 - November 17, 2015

Mattoon, IL – Marie Corenne Kempher, age 99, of Mattoon, IL, formerly of Leesburg, IN, passed away at 7:05 p.m., Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at Life's Journey Mattoon.

Services in her honor will be held at a later date. Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, located at 1200 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, IL, 61938, is assisting the family with arrangements.

Born November 30, 1915, in Fairmount, IN, Marie was the daughter of Arthur B. and Etta K. (Kirkpatrick) Brewer. She married Harry F. Kempher on January 5, 1946, in Marion, IN. He passed away July 15, 1999. Survivors include: their children, Victoria K. Christman, of Mattoon, IL, and Robert L. Kempher and wife Tammy of Ft. Wayne, IN; Three grandchildren, Tara L. Kauffman and husband Mark of Hanover, PA, Kirk P. Christman and wife Laura of Bemidji, MN, and Harry D. Christman and wife Ananya of Burlington, VT; Four grandchildren, Christopher and Kayla Kauffman of Hanover, PA, Lilah Christman of Burlington, VT, and Eli Christman of Bemidji, MN. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers and two sisters.

Mrs. Kempher earned a bachelor's degree from Purdue University and a master's degree from Ball State University. She began her teaching career in Fairmount, IN. She later moved on to Marion Grade School in Marion, IN, and then to Sweetser High School in Sweetser, IN, and finally to Oakhill High School in Converse, IN, where she taught until her retirement in 1977. Marie

was a beloved teacher and cheer leading sponsor. Her former students include actor James Dean and Jim Davis, the creator of Garfield, both of Fairmount, IN. Each year she is honored by the Oak Hill High School's Annual Marie Kempher Award, an award given to the most outstanding female athlete. In addition to her accomplishments as a teacher, Marie was the founder of the Tippecanoe Women's Association, a member of the Lake Tippecanoe Property Owners, American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, and a life time member of the Purdue Alumni.

Mrs. Kempher was a member of the Presbyterian Church of Marion, IN, and attended the First Baptist Church of Leesburg, IN.

Please visit www.mitchell-jerdan.com or www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome to light a virtual candle in her honor or share a memory with her family.

Tribute Wall



“ *Marie Corenne Kempher*

October 08, 2023 at 07:40 PM



“ *Marie was my Aunt.
She was life itself. I remember her deep dark tan, driving her convertible. Kind and welcoming to her husbands youngest brother's son. I adored her. Goodnight Aunt Marie, rest well.*

TJ Kempher - December 19, 2022 at 07:14 PM



“ *Kayla Kauffman lit a candle in memory of Marie Corenne Kempher*



Kayla Kauffman - February 25, 2016 at 11:50 AM



“ *I was Marie's Great Granddaughter and I feel so special to have my middle name Marie. I will miss her so much!*



Kayla Kauffman - February 25, 2016 at 11:48 AM

LA

“ Dear Marie Kempfer family,
We want to let you know that a donation has been made to the Lake Tippecanoe Property Association in memory of your mom. As a charter member of our group she provided great stories and insight into our history.
Our sympathy to you,
Lake Tippecanoe Women's Association

Lake Tippecanoe Women's Association - December 10, 2015 at 08:36 PM

DH

“ Vickie: We wanted to give you our condolences and memories of your mother that we have from those years we remember in Marion. Lynn and I remember her (and your dad) from her teaching at Sweetser and Oak Hill and all the other things she has done. I hope you remember both of us and our "fun" times lifeguarding at the Matter Park pool in Marion.

With all our love,
Don and Lynn Hamm, Fort Wayne Indiana

Don Hamm - December 03, 2015 at 10:35 AM

JM

“ What a great lady she was. Many hours of laughs in her office and many, many great heartfelt talks. She was someone that any girl in school could go to for help, guidance, laughs, or to get one of those dreadful gym suits from. Rest in Peace sweet lady.



Judy Martin - November 23, 2015 at 08:30 AM

TN

“ I was a helper to Mrs. Kempher during my study hall and I would type up the master for the health and gym classes tests. I would adds "Peanuts" cartoon at the bottom of the page. I enjoyed helping her and I have wonderful memories of Mrs. Kempher. Wow! Mrs. Kempher was so close to being a centurion! So sorry for your lose.



Terry Jean (Hoyt) Nichols - November 22, 2015 at 10:01 AM

MB

“ To the Family of Marie Kempher: I knew your mother and grandmother through the friendship of Vickie. We are members of the MHS class of 1960. Marie was a part of our lives during those high school days! Such a fun and caring lady! It was "sorta" hard to keep up with her way back then!! I know that you all with miss her, but she left you with great memories! "Carry On" and make Marie proud of you! God bless.
Miriam Williams Bence
Windfall,IN

Miriam M. Bence - November 22, 2015 at 09:38 AM

PL

“ Kempher was our high school cheerleading sponsor-physed teacher-volleyball coach. We all felt so close to her that we just called her Kempher, which drove the admin crazy and they made us attach MRS. as a sign of respect. There was certainly no lack of respect or love for her. She found great activities for us and gave attention whenever we needed it. She was unselfish and giving. RIP knowing that you made lives better, Kempher.

Peggy Towe Lucas - November 22, 2015 at 04:36 AM

ST

“ *Shirley Cates Teal lit a candle in memory of Marie Corenne Kempher*



Shirley Cates Teal - November 21, 2015 at 09:30 AM

ST

Marie was my drivers ed teacher at Sweetser. What a fun and caring person she was. We had a huge pep club because of her and she was always an upbeat. You almost made 100 Marie! You deserve to rest in peace. Shirley Cates Teal

Shirley Cates Teal - November 21, 2015 at 09:33 AM

CS

“ *Marie was one of my favorite people. She was compassionate, loving and a great teacher and person. She enjoyed life. She taught her driver's education students how to park at Custer's Last Stand. She took busloads of kids to Clearwater Park to swim many summers. She created a large and active pep club to support Oak Hill athletes. I love her. She made my life better. Catherine Rudio Sargent*

Catherine Sargent - November 20, 2015 at 09:36 PM

JB

“ *Mrs. Kempher was our teacher, confidante and friend. Her smile and laugh were infectious. ...no one ever left her office without a smile. Rest in peace, Marie. You were a very special lady.*

Judy Mason Boyce - November 20, 2015 at 07:22 PM

JP

“ Julie Perry lit a candle in memory of Marie Corenne Kempfer



Julie perry - November 19, 2015 at 08:09 PM

JP

I had the pleasure of knowing this beautiful lady for about 5 years she always had a big smile and a kind word we would read letters and cards from her family together which was always one of the best part of my day she was truly beautiful inside and out

Julie perry - November 19, 2015 at 08:16 PM



“ I first met Marie at Gowin Parc, she was a tablemate at my mother in law, Delores Hayes' table. She always had a big smile and was happy to see us when we would visit there. Learned to love her and she was one of my favorites. She loved putting puzzles together and she treasured the cards and mail she received from family. She also enjoyed music, I will miss this dear sweet lady, may God comfort the family during this time and always.



Vickie Hayes - November 19, 2015 at 07:38 PM