



Arlis Kay Bell

November 18, 1946 - October 8, 2020

Arlis Kay Bell, 73, of Havana passed away after a long battle with Parkinson's on Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 8:15 p.m. at Havana Healthcare Center in Havana. She was born on November 18, 1946 at her family's farmhouse in Kilbourne to Robert and Bernice M. (Huber) Vanderveen. She married Randall Bell on November 24, 1971 at St. John's Lutheran Church at Matanzas.

Mrs. Bell is survived by her husband, Randall of Havana; son, Aaron (Suzanne Morrisette) Bell of Golden, Colorado; daughter, Yara (John) Krueger of Madison, Wisconsin; grandchildren, Mackenzie (12) and Nathan (15), and two brothers, Richard "Dick" (Janice) Vanderveen of Kilbourne and Glen (Rebecca) Vanderveen of Havana. She was preceded in death by her parents and one son, Christopher Bell.

Arlis attended school in Peterville at a one room schoolhouse and rode a horse, 'Cricket', to school every day. She went to Balyki High School and Western Illinois University (Bachelor of Art). Arlis used her passion for art to then become a middle school art teacher for several years in Quincy. She met Randy while performing together (she sang while he accompanied her on piano) at many weddings. They owned Grant's Florist in Havana for 18 years, and she later worked for the Havana Public Library refurbishing books. She loved all types of art, including painting in many mediums, sculpture, carving, poems, and writing. She authored a comic strip called "Arnold and Emily" for many years for the Mason County Democrat and designed the original

Oktoberfest logo. Mrs. Bell was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, where she sang as a soprano in the church choir. She was an amazing mother, grandmother, wife, friend and community member and will be missed dearly.

Graveside services will be held on Saturday, October 10, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at Laurel Hill Cemetery in Havana. Rev. Bruce LaKamp will officiate.

The family requests that face masks and social distancing protocols be followed at the cemetery during the service. Unfortunately, please no hugs or handshakes as it is important for them to keep everyone safe.

Memorial contributions can be made in Mrs. Bell's name to a fund to purchase a bench in her name in downtown Havana. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.hurleyfh.com.

Hurley Funeral Home in Havana is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Laurel Hill Cemetery

1105 E Laurel Ave
Havana, IL 62644
(309) 543-2986

Previous Events

Graveside Service

OCT **10**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Laurel Hill Cemetery
1105 E Laurel Ave
Havana, IL 62644
(309) 543-2986

Tribute Wall



“ *Arlis Kay Bell*

October 12, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of Arlis' passing. She was a dear friend to Camille and myself.*
Dave Haffner

David Haffner - December 09, 2020 at 07:28 PM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear about Arlis. My heart goes out to her family.*
Janet [Clark] Osmus



Janet Osmus - October 28, 2020 at 03:05 PM



“ *I remember taking an art class she taught. She was so talented. Later she and another friend and I would walk around town early in the morning and we worked at the library together. I will really miss her!*



Karen Elliott - October 22, 2020 at 02:57 PM

MB

“ *Arlis was my grandma and we were always like 2 peas in a pod. We did everything together and we always shared our love of sweets too. She was always the most thoughtful person and would help out with anything. She would send me and my family letters and packages every single week. Sometimes multiple times a week. She was the most talented artist. In my room I actually have two of her pieces that she made for me. She had such an exquisite and articulate way of looking at the world. She also loved to cook. I remember every time that I would come out, we would always make jello. together. She had a whole drawer of jello in her kitchen. I don't remember a lot about her before she became ill, but my parents informed me that we were always together. I am now older. I am twelve years old but her memory will always live on in me.*



Mackenzie Bell - October 14, 2020 at 10:14 PM

Toni
Twiggs

“ *When I was little I lived across the street from Arlis and became quick friends with her daughter Yara. Rest in peace sweet lady.*



Toni Twiggs - October 13, 2020 at 08:34 AM

ML

“ *Melissa Little lit a candle in memory of Arlis Kay Bell*



Melissa Little - October 12, 2020 at 11:28 AM

SB

“ *Steve Blessman lit a candle in memory of Arlis Kay Bell*



Steve Blessman - October 11, 2020 at 09:54 AM


Chrissy
Hutchison

“ *Chrissy Hutchison lit a candle in memory of Arlis Kay Bell*



Chrissy Hutchison - October 10, 2020 at 10:23 PM

AH

“ *Angie Hodgson lit a candle in memory of Arlis Kay Bell*



angie hodgson - October 10, 2020 at 06:13 PM

CM

“It's difficult for me to put to words how I'm feeling right now. When I was at the Bell home, I felt like family. Not just because they were "nice," not just because they were welcoming. Because they held me to the same expectations as their own children, and because they demonstrated through their own actions that personal responsibility was not a burden, but an expression of love and respect. That rules could be tools for creating harmony, rather than simple uniformity. That affection and respect can channel youthful chaos into a richly creative adulthood.

Arlis and Randy gave me my first job that wasn't a paper route, and even though the time I spent with Aaron mixing soil after school to the gentle warmth of grow lights, to the scent of moisture and moss and vermiculite, to the dulcet tones of Queensrÿche and Skinny Puppy, accounts for but a small part of my existence, I'll never forget the privilege I felt I'd been granted. I'll never forget just what a calming and necessary refuge it was. I'll carry that with me always.

Arlis, thank you. Randy, thank you. Yara, thank you. And Aaron, thank you for being exactly the friend I needed.

—Cora

Cora Middleton - October 10, 2020 at 12:09 PM

SW

“I will always remember when Arlis and Randy both took piano/organ lessons and how great they played together. She was a very special person and will be missed by all.

Robert & Sara Williams

Sara Williams - October 10, 2020 at 10:27 AM

MB

“ I am so sorry for your loss. She fought a long hard battle with the help, love and assistance of her husband, my friend, Randy Bell. Arlis was a wonderful, kind person and will be free of her illness and join God in Heaven where she will be free!!
Sincerely,
Marty Balbinot

Marty Balbinot - October 10, 2020 at 10:07 AM

DW

“ Sorry for your loss Our thoughts and, prayers are with you and your family



Dan and Chris Wilson - October 10, 2020 at 09:58 AM

DB

“ Our prayers for PEACE to the family. Arlis sang "One Hand One Heart" from West Side Story at our wedding nearly 50 years ago. Beautiful voice.
Don and Marilyn Blakeley

Don and Marilyn Blakeley - October 10, 2020 at 09:04 AM

LH

“ Larry And Mary Hundt lit a candle in memory of Arlis Kay Bell



Larry and Mary Hundt - October 10, 2020 at 08:50 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Arlis Kay Bell.*



October 10, 2020 at 08:36 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss. Prayers for the family.
Paul and Susan Brown Showalter*



Paul and Susan Brown Showalter - October 09, 2020 at 10:48 PM



“ *Sorry for your loss. She was a wonderful person. I always enjoyed talking to her. My sincere condolences.
Sharon France*



Sharon France - October 09, 2020 at 10:39 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to Randy, Aaron and Yara and families. I worked with Arlis at Grants for several years and always remember her and my time there so fondly. She was sweet, funny and very talented. She'll be sorely missed.*

Pamela Ziegler - October 09, 2020 at 10:04 PM

NE

“ Nancy Elliott lit a candle in memory of Arlis Kay Bell



Nancy Elliott - October 09, 2020 at 09:51 PM

CM

“ My heart goes out to Randy, Aaron and Yara. Being neighbors and good friends my memories are too numerous to list. We laughed together and cried together over what life hands out. Our kids are forever best friends. Arlis was the founder of the Friendship 4H club and I co shared leadership with her from it's beginning. We joked about have a Duck Days in Havana...making up recipes we would serve. She joked and said she would serve apple duckling! I am truly blessed having her friendship. Rest in peace my dear friend, Heaven has gained another angel to sing it's choir.

Cora Murphy - October 09, 2020 at 09:36 PM

SC

Dear Randy & family, I,m so very sorry to hear of your loss. She was A great high school friend,with lots of good memories.She was a great talented lady,as everyone who knew her would agree. Randy,my prayers are with you now,and the coming days .Sharyn (Jones) Cochran.

Sharyn Cochran - October 10, 2020 at 10:32 AM

YK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Yara Krueger - October 09, 2020 at 09:27 PM

KP

This picture is absolutely one of my favorite memories of these 2! ❤️

Katie Procarione - October 09, 2020 at 10:06 PM

AM

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with your family, Arlis. I remember when you rode your horse to school standing up on the horse. Go to sleep under the coffee table so no one would step on you. Singing at my wedding what a beautiful voice you had. Christmas program you sang in. All the fun we had had that country school of Petterville. Happy Memories Alice Prettyyan Miller & Sharon Prettyman Lascelles.*



Alice Miller - October 09, 2020 at 09:16 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Arlis Kay Bell.*



October 09, 2020 at 09:06 PM

AM

“ *Alice Miller lit a candle in memory of Arlis Kay Bell*



Alice Miller - October 09, 2020 at 09:04 PM

JT

“ *Our prayers are with her family and friends. May our Heavenly Father wrap his arms around you all and give you comfort.*



Joy Tribbett - October 09, 2020 at 08:55 PM

JF

“ *So sorry for your loss. I enjoyed working with Arliss at the Havana library -- she was always in a cheerful mood. Jane Frazier*

Jane Frazier - October 09, 2020 at 08:36 PM

LT

“ *Sorry for your family's loss!*



Lisa Jill Ulrich Thompson - October 09, 2020 at 08:28 PM

CW

“ *Arlis was a very sweet lady I miss her already.
May God Bless you. Prayers for Randy and
the family during this difficult time 🙏...*



Curt Wilkey - October 09, 2020 at 08:15 PM