



Diane Susan Stauffer

August 26, 1948 - May 15, 2022

Diane was born on August 26, 1948 in Champaign, Illinois to Francis and Alma (Miller) Merrifield. Growing up, she loved to read books, enjoyed cheerleading, and was often laughing and spending time with family and friends. After graduating from Champaign high school in 1966, she attended McPherson College in Kansas, majoring in elementary education. It was there that she met the love of her life, Jim Stauffer, and the two were married in 1969. Diane went on to obtain her Master's in Education at the University of Iowa, which she received in 1974.

Diane and Jim were blessed with two children, Matt and Krissa, and they raised their family in Kansas City, Missouri, and later moved to Omaha, Nebraska in 2006. Diane loved her job as a teacher, and her passion for her work showed through the numerous awards she won, including Teacher of the Year, Excellence in Teaching, Kansas City Star Teacher Award, and later in Omaha, the Alice Buffett Award. She believed that all children can learn through relationship building, and always went the extra mile to support children and their families. She would always tell people, "Teach from the heart."

The fire marshals in Kansas City knew Diane well because of the lights she used to decorate her classroom. They asked her year after year to take them down, but she would always politely say, "No", with a laugh. After a few years of this, they began to just skip her room during their inspection. Diane was able to make a wonderful impact on students during her time as a teacher,

and she was also honored to serve as a principal and school administrator. In addition to her love of teaching, Diane also cherished being a wife, mother, and grandmother and enjoyed any time spent with family. She especially took joy in attending sporting events that her children or grandchildren were participating in. Her love for reading continued throughout her life, and she also developed a passion for gardening. She loved flowers, especially tulips, and people would slow down as they passed her yard because she had created such a beautiful garden.

No one could make Eggs Benedict like Diane, and she was also famous for her cookies and brownies. When Diane wasn't cooking, Olive Garden was a favorite restaurant to visit, and she also was fond of the sausage and egg biscuits from McDonalds. Diane was a fan of the Kansas City Chiefs, the Beatles were her favorite band, she liked to watch Pride and Prejudice, and some favorite snacks included Junior Mints, Root Beer, and Hot Chocolate. Most of all, Diane loved to laugh and share stories. She had a talent for always finding the best quality in a person. Her friends and family will remember her as a kind, honest, loving, considerate, energetic, passionate, assertive, and genuine woman whom they will greatly miss.

Diane was preceded in death by her parents, Francis and Alma Merrifield and brothers, Carl and Russ Merrifield. She is survived by her husband, Jim Stauffer; children, Matthew (Molly) Stauffer and Krissa (Dave) Hollinger; grandchildren, Heidi and Wyatt Stauffer; and siblings: Saundie (John) Gardner, Karen (Dale) Baer, and Kevin (Lisa) Merrifield.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 19. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Reichmuth Funeral Home - Omaha / Elkhorn
21901 W. Maple Rd.
P.O. Box 711
Elkhorn, NE 68022
402-289-2222
services@reichmuthfuneralhomes.com
<https://www.reichmuthfuneralhomes.com/>

Memorial Service

MAY 19. 6:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Reichmuth Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Diane Susan Stauffer*



Reichmuth Funeral Home - May 16, 2022 at 06:12 PM

JS

“ *My heart is in my toes. I had no idea Diane passed. I just sent her an email today about her being my hero and my mentor, along with several other things, but the email bounced back so I went to Google to find current contact information and found this announcement...I am so, so sad. I would love to share with you the email I wrote to her and so many other powerful memories of the difference she made in my life. I don't even know if you still read this board but if you do please email me. She made me the teacher I am and I want you to know that. In deepest sympathy, Joy Scranton*

Joy Scranton - September 29, 2023 at 10:55 PM



“ *Diane Susan Stauffer*

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM

LG

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Laura Galus - May 19, 2022 at 10:35 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Diane Susan Stauffer.



May 19, 2022 at 04:24 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Diane Susan Stauffer.



May 18, 2022 at 02:40 PM

CN

“ I worked with Diane at Buffett Middle School. She was not only an amazing human but a really fabulous teacher. I had the joy of being her colleague and friend and my two children had the joy of having her as a teacher. We all learned from her patience, wisdom and guidance. My son is a reader because of Diane and we will forever be grateful to her for that gift. My deepest condolences.

Colleen Nieland - May 17, 2022 at 10:00 PM

LT

“ Love, Stephen and Destiny Tow purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Diane Susan Stauffer.



Love, Stephen and Destiny Tow - May 17, 2022 at 03:29 PM

NH

“ It was a joy to get to know Diane. She and her entire family were a great support to my kids during the cross country days, and I especially loved it that we developed a special bond during the year Chrissa was on my class. My memories always revolve around her putting her family and her students first.

Nina Hinrichs - May 17, 2022 at 12:43 PM

FA

“ My deepest sympathy to Jim, Krissa and Matt. I am so saddened to hear of Diane's passing. She was a good friend for many years and I have many good memories of her. You all are in my prayers. ❤️🙏
Frances (Weis) Alfaro

Frances Alfaro - May 17, 2022 at 11:08 AM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Diane Susan Stauffer.



May 17, 2022 at 09:35 AM