



## Carole Jeanne Gunkel

January 27, 1934 - May 23, 2022

Carole Jeanne Gunkel, 88, of St. Joseph Township, a retired Benton Harbor Area School Teacher, died at her home on Monday, May 23, 2022.

Services celebrating her life will be held at 1 PM on Friday, May 27, at the Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service in Benton Township with Rev Ken Clark officiating. Burial will follow in Crystal Springs Cemetery. The family will receive friends, students, and relatives from 5 PM to 8 PM on Thursday at the Fairplain Chapel. Memorials may be made to the Benton Harbor Area Schools for scholarships for elementary students or the Shriners hospital. Please share messages or memories at [www.florin.net](http://www.florin.net).

Carole was born on January 27, 1934 in Benton Harbor. She married her husband, Robert Gunkel, on August 1, 1954 and he preceded her in death on August 1, 2012. Together they enjoyed 58 years of marriage. Carole retired in 1996 after 25 years of being a fifth grade teacher with the Benton Harbor Area School System. She taught first at Martindale School, then at Sterne Brunson School, and finally at Sorter School. Carole was proud to be a school teacher and her students affectionately called her "Mrs. G". She and her husband traveled extensively in the US while her children were growing up and then internationally after the children had grown up. They also begin wintering in Florida with their Motor Home until they brought a home in North Fort Myers, Florida. They then become "Snow Birds" and enjoyed the many friendships

with individuals they met on their travels. She also enjoyed their “Pursuit of Happiness” over the years. Carole was an avid reader and enjoyed going on Cruises. She was an intelligent and determined individual. Carole was a “super woman” to her students and her family and will be missed by all of them.

Her family includes her daughters, Tammy (Al) Lopez of Eau Claire, Carrie (Donnie) Weller of St. Joseph, and Darcy Gunkel of Stevensville; her 2 brothers, James A. Clark of Portage and Rev. Ken Clark of Nipomo, CA; her 2 grandchildren; her 3 great grandchildren; and her nieces and nephews. She was also preceded in death by her parents, Ken and Lucille Clark.

# Cemetery Details

## Crystal Springs Cemetery

1655 E Napier Ave  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAY 26.** 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service  
1053 East Napier Avenue  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022  
(269) 926-7222  
[staff@florin.net](mailto:staff@florin.net)

## Services Celebrating Her Life

**MAY 27.** 1:00 PM (ET)

Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service  
1053 East Napier Avenue  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022  
(269) 926-7222  
[staff@florin.net](mailto:staff@florin.net)

## Burial

MAY 27. 3:00 PM (ET)

Crystal Springs Cemetery  
1655 E Napier Ave  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

# Tribute Wall

SA

“ *Best teacher I ever had she was loving of all her students. I will always remember my 5th grade teacher at Sorter School.. R.I.P Mrs..G...*

Stephanie Angelo - May 29, 2022 at 01:46 AM

JF

“ *With love and heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. G's family. I know how much Carole loved her family and how much her family loved her. She will forever be loved and missed by all who knew her. God bless the Gunkel family. May memories of Carole's love and works be embedded in all of our hearts forever. R.I.P. my friend.*



Josephine Smith & Yvonne Isom and Famili - May 27, 2022 at 04:09 AM

HM

“ *Mrs. Gunkel was a excellent compassionate teacher and lovely person. I had her in 5 th and Mr. Kramer in 6 th grade. To of my most favorite. Deepest sympathy and condolences to her family.*



Heidi McDermott - May 26, 2022 at 09:17 PM

TB

“ Mrs. Gunkle, litterly shaped my life in so many ways. She took extra time after school and caught me up in reading and math to where I needed to be for 5th grade. She often invited me to her home to spend time with her family. Her, Mr. Gunkle and Mr. Kramer where the best ppl I have ever known. As a grown adult if I ran into them in town they all remembered me. She will truly be missed and this world was a much better place for having her in it! 🥹❤️

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**Theresa Evans Buck** - May 26, 2022 at 05:01 PM