



## Jean E Rakauski

July 13, 1945 - June 12, 2024

Jean E. Rakauski, 79, of Eau Claire died Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at the Woodland Terrace in Coloma.

Services celebrating her life will be held at 11:30 AM on Monday, June 17, at the Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service in Benton Township with Rev. Mikki Collins officiating. Friends and relatives may begin calling at 10:00 AM on Monday at the Fairplain Chapel. Burial of the ashes will be next to her husband in Shanghai Cemetery in Pipestone Township and cremation has taken place. Memorials may be made to the Trigeminal Neuralgia Association, the Multiple Sclerosis Society or the Chapel Hill United Methodist Church. Please share memories or messages at [www.florin.net](http://www.florin.net).

Jean was born on May 13, 1945, in Dowagiac to Ernest and Dorothy Runkle. She graduated from Western Michigan University with a degree in Teaching. Jean taught at the Washington Elementary School in the St. Joseph Public School System from 1968 to 1972. She married her husband, Bruce, in June of 1968 and he preceded her in death in May of 2001. Together they had 33 years of marriage. Jean was also a longtime member of the Chapel Hill United Methodist Church and volunteered there and taught Sunday School even after she retired from the St. Joseph School System. She was a volunteer at the Berrien General Hospital for over 30 years. Jean was a proud and fierce fan of the Michigan State University including all of the sport teams. If anyone would

say that she has hobbies, it would be anything about Michigan State University and her church, Chapel Hill United Methodist. In her later years Jean moved to the Woodland Terrace where she would be the host to new residents and shepherd them around so that they would become adjusted to their new environment. Jean was a strong and faithful individual with a quick and quiet wit.

Her family includes her twin daughters, Kathleen Rakauski of Eau Claire and Beth Rakauski of St. Joseph; her brother, Bill (Kathy) Runkle, of Dowagiac; and her many nieces and nephews and great nieces and great nephews. Jean also wanted to mention her special friends; Kathy Vlastic and her son, John, of Coloma; Cheryl Kraklau of Sodus Township; Bill and Carol Bloom of Fort Myers, FL; and Mick and Marilyn Hart of Eau Claire. She was also preceded in death by 2 sisters, Marie and Janet.

# Cemetery Details

## Shanghai Cemetery

Pipestone Twp., MI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JUN 17.** 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

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

## Services Celebrating Her Life

**JUN 17.** 11:30 AM (ET)

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

## Luncheon

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JUN 17. 12:30 PM (ET)

Chapel Hill UMC

4071 Naomi Rd

Sodus, MI 49126

chumcsodus@comcast.net

<http://www.gbgm-umc.org/chapelhillsodus/greeting.html>

# Tribute Wall

DJ

“ So very sorry to have missed the service honoring the life of Jean. I've only just learned of her passing. She was a remarkable woman who I am forever indebted. If it wasn't for Jean, I wouldn't have my business. She generously loaned me the start-up money, 25 years ago when the banks refused to help me. She and Bruce will always have a special place in my heart. RIP as you two are now reunited in the next life. xxo

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**DeAnna James** - June 20, 2024 at 01:26 PM

DW

“ I am so thankful I got the chance to know Jean the last few years. I just loved her. That grin was so special! Sure will miss her greetings on the porch. Praying for you in your loss.

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**Denise Taylor, volunteer at WT** - June 15, 2024 at 11:10 AM

KB

Jean was such a special lady to our family and my favorite Sunday school teacher. Loved the time spent with her tailgating at MSU. She had a heart of gold and will be missed. Sending Prayers and hugs to you Beth and Kathy.

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**Krista Buescher** - June 18, 2024 at 07:27 AM

EK

*So sorry to read of Jean's passing. This is Elowyn Ann Keech, and I knew Bruce first thru my design practice and depending on his good paint. He and I would chat when I waited for an order or a new sample and he learned I was serving on the United Way of Michigan Board of Directors as well as locally. I remember the day he told me of the problems of finding a diagnosis for Jean, the research she was doing herself (without Google!) and the frightening conclusion she had reached but which he so badly needed to better understand and to confirm...and wasn't there an organization related to MS as part of our group? My answer was to immediately call United Way office in Lansing and get phone number for that group who had a wonderful and able director I knew and admired; materials and, more importantly contacts for diagnosis and care, were almost immediately sent to the store and Bruce had tears in his eyes as he told me how much the information and sharing of resources mattered to both of them and, of course, to the girls. It has long been my honor to have helped and I did meet Jean several times. What a gal! Sincerely,  
Annie Keech, St. Joseph*

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**Elowyn Ann Keech** - June 19, 2024 at 11:44 AM