



## Kathy Jo Swift

March 29, 1963 - October 20, 2022

Kathy J. (Kuskey) Swift, age 59 of Glen Dale, WV passed away Thursday, October 20, 2022 in the presence of her husband.

Kathy was born March 29, 1963, the daughter of the late Joseph M. and Patricia A. Kuskey. She graduated from John Marshall High School in 1981 and West Virginia University in 1985 with a degree in journalism. She also did master's study in education at WVU and Marshall University.

She is survived by her best friend and husband of 35 years, Bryant "Randy"; her dear son, Grant; sisters, Joan (Larry) Truex, Debra (Jeffrey) Miller, and Dru (David) Meyer; brother, Joseph (Jonna) Kuskey; nephews, Adam (Trisha) Truex, Jason Elson, Jeremy (Sondra) Elson, Patrick (Hayli) Meyer, Daniel (Audrey) Meyer, Christopher (Sarah) Kuskey, Alec (Brandi) Kuskey; nieces, Renae (Carco) Clave-Truex, Carli (Matt) Liette; great nieces, Madison (Jaylen), Annalyn, Addison, Violet and Josie; great nephews, Austin, Zachary, Xavier, Killian, Conlan and Jake.

Kathy's specialty in community journalism led to her first paid work covering general assignments for the Marshall County Journal. There she reported on everything from parking meter violations to prison riots. She went on to work for Ogden News out of Wheeling as a government reporter and then editor for both the News Register and the Intelligencer. There she earned first-place honors from the W.Va Press Association for coverage of a downtown Wheeling fire and a third-place nod for a series about a mother's fight to bring home her abducted child. She taught newswriting and reporting, investigative

research, photojournalism, and desktop publishing at West Liberty State College, where she also oversaw production of the school's weekly newspaper and worked with the Hilltopper Marching Band. After 15 years at WLSC, she went home to raise her son and focus on community service. This led to rewarding work as a catechist at her beloved St. Francis Xavier Church in Moundsville and time as a special education aid for Marshall County Schools. She also gave many years of service providing technology support at Glen Dale Elementary. In her later years, she worked as a freelance researcher and copy editor and at St. Francis Xavier managing their publications and social media.

Many did not know that Kathy was invited to study vocal performance at WVU. She left high school a promising vocalist whose most prominent achievements were being selected as a WVa Solo & Ensemble honors recital finalist and soloist for inaugural ceremonies before Gov. Jay Rockefeller and other dignitaries for Rhododendron Girl's State. She sang professionally throughout college and continued to perform, cantor, and study voice throughout her life. She was a voracious self-learner, appreciated many genres of music and performance, and relished classic films with a special spot for the Golden Age. She was also a fan of baseball thanks to her son, whose love of the game is contagious.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Moundsville on October 29, 2022 at 11am with a reception at Xavier Hall. Flowers are fine, but donations to Gabriel Project would also be great. Follow your hearts.

## Cemetery Details

### Grisell Crematory

Moundsville, WV

## Previous Events

### Service

OCT **29**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church  
Moundsville, WV 26041

# Tribute Wall

TS

“ *Trisha Stillion lit a candle in memory of Kathy Jo Swift*



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**Trisha Stillion** - January 01, 2023 at 10:19 AM

DM

“ *Mrs. Swift was an exemplary teacher who always led and demonstrated by example. Her broadcasting class at John Marshall (JM) was certainly not an easy experience, but she made sure that we accepted challenges, picked ourselves up when we fell, and even face uncertainty with positive thinking. Personally, she was a tremendous impact on finding my voice on the announcements every morning at JM, and I'm positive that she helped others find their own voice in their own field. Thank you, Mrs. Swift, for not only helping your former students find their voice, but discover their true potential.*

*- Dominic Martin, Caleb Games, and many others you taught at JM*

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**Dominic Martin** - October 28, 2022 at 10:14 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kathy Jo Swift.*



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October 28, 2022 at 07:17 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Kathy Jo Swift.



October 28, 2022 at 08:17 AM



“ Keeping you and Grant in our daily prayers. So sorry for your loss, I know how much you loved Kathy Jo and all the wonderful stories your shared with us at work. Heaven gained an Angel.

**John Stoll** - October 27, 2022 at 10:19 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kathy Jo Swift.



October 27, 2022 at 10:08 PM



“ I will miss my chats with Kathy about life, tuna melts and writing. She is the person most responsible for pushing me towards a future as an educator. Being the humble person she was she would never take credit. This world lost a great soul. Rest In Peace, Kathy Jo.

**Aaron Burch** - October 26, 2022 at 09:29 PM

DF

“ I "worked" and knew Kathy via WLU. This is so sad to hear. I hope and pray for her family's strength throughout this heartbreaking time.

David Flatley - October 26, 2022 at 03:06 PM

MF

“ Randy and Grant,  
I am shocked by Kathy's passing. My heart breaks for you both! She was such an amazing person. I truly enjoyed talking with her at the baseball games. We spoke a lot at the doctors office as well. Grant she loves you so very much and was so proud of you! You both are in our thoughts and prayers! Love Melissa and Chad Frazier

Melissa Fraier - October 26, 2022 at 01:05 PM

LW

“ Prayers from West Virginia Wesleyan Baseball Players and Parents.  
We will keep Randy, Grant and the entire family in our prayers.

Lesley White - October 26, 2022 at 06:09 AM

EP

“ Erin Powell lit a candle in memory of Kathy Jo Swift



Erin Powell - October 26, 2022 at 12:28 AM

RO

“ It was shocking to hear of Kathy's passing. I enjoyed talking with Kathy and all of the family when Renae played at the American Legion during the past couple of years. I have some really fond memories of the two (and too few) family reunions. For once in my life, I am really at a loss for words. My deepest sympathy and condolences to Kathy's family and all who knew and loved her. She will be sorely missed.

Ron

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**Ron Osmianski** - October 25, 2022 at 09:20 PM

BS

“ Randy my condolences. My prayers are with you. I'm in Louisiana now so won't be seeing you at Walmart in the future. Inside joke.

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**Bob Stewart** - October 25, 2022 at 07:11 PM

AM

“ I'm sorry to hear about the loss of your wife. Thinking of you and your family during this difficult time.

-The Marcic Family

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**Andrew Marcic** - October 25, 2022 at 05:13 PM

JL

“ What a wonderful woman. A teacher who made such a difference in the lives of her students. Such a kind person, so many fond memories of little league and then her teaching broadcasting at JM. She supported her students in a way that helped them grow. She was a bright light in the lives of many. Deepest sympathy to Grant and Randy and the entire Kuskey family.

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**Jane Lucey** - October 25, 2022 at 10:46 AM

RO

“ I send prayers and condolences to Kathy's family. She was such a sweet and genuine person. She will be missed by many.

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**Russell Osmianski** - October 25, 2022 at 08:50 AM

T(

“ I have such happy memories of my time spent with Kathy. We were grade school friends and I remember walking to school with her in the mornings. Her Mom would make us oatmeal before scooting out the door. We would sing songs and play games as we went on our merry way. We also were in choir together for a while and we worked at the tax office in the summers together. Kathy always made us laugh and work seemed lighter when you got paired with her. She was so smart, beautiful & talented!  
Kathy was a beautiful bright person. Always so kind, positive and funny. My condolences and prayers go out to all who loved her and were lucky enough to be close to her. May God give them comfort as they honor her memory. She was a remarkable person 🙏🙏🙏  
Gone too soon

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**Tionna Baker (DiRemigio)** - October 25, 2022 at 06:45 AM

“ Aunt Kathy was a true gift to this world a light that will forever be missed by anyone having had the pleasure of knowing her.

*She was a fun aunt, a fun baby sitter that you always looked forward to coming home from college to build forts in the living room when she was on break, to growing up exposing you to things like skiing for the first time with Uncle Randy, or sitting one-on-one working out the struggles of becoming a young adolescent transitioning into adulthood, to include the comfort of your failures that brought forth the courage to try again.*

*She never judged too hard, and always came to a discussion with a firm opinion, coupled with her loving version of mentorship that made you comprehend your struggle with her steadfast flavor of integrity.*

*A strong perspective of truth based on her faith that always made you want to be (become) a better person by explaining things in a manner that you could understand; she always embraced your potential for greatness with the encouragement that only Aunt Kathy could deliver with an “Oh, I love you sweetheart” and the Aunt Kathy signature laugh that always meant she was serious about your talks and gave your heart permission to go forth and conquer the world.*

*She always made time for you, and was the balanced sort of person you could always turn to when you couldn't turn to anyone else. She always had your confidence and keep your council extremely sacred.*

*I can only assume that there is a larger reason God took her so early; a purpose bigger than mortal existence; a greater plan that is just as sacred as the council she kept to all of us with her unique skill-set that our Father couldn't wait any longer for.*

*There is something bigger that she has been called home to do, and I am less fearful that she is there to pave the way for us all when it*

*is our turn to be called home.*

*I take solace in the fact that she's not gone forever, she is simply gone for now, away for a short period of time, she's "gone back to school, or gone on assignment to teach, to report, to journal, etc.", and we will all be offered the opportunity to embrace once again.*

*But as we all mourn her passing, I look at her time served on this earth as being a great daughter, mother, sister, wife, friend, loyal servant to The Church, the community, a teacher of life and of course our Aunt.*

*In part, she will always be the Aunt Kathy that contributed to the man I have become, and will continue to be remembered as a pillar in this life and the next. I regret being away for far too long to not have been able to share more of my life with you and family members in my later years, with more talks that would have been able to convey my appreciation for all that you have influenced, but I now know that you understand this more absolutely where you are.*

*We will always love you and miss your compassion, kindness, fairness and attention to the details Aunt Kathy. You will be missed for sure! Until we meet again...*

*Always Faithful!  
Love,  
Jason*

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**Jason Elson** - October 25, 2022 at 12:51 AM



*What a wonderful tribute...*

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**linda** - October 25, 2022 at 08:58 PM

AS

“ I am at a loss for words. Too many memories to share, laugh about or cry. You always stood tall. RIP my friend.

Angie Montes Simmerman - October 24, 2022 at 11:15 PM

DN

“ I cannot imagine not seeing or talking to Kathy again. She was a bright light to all who knew her. I know she is with our Lord, getting fitted for her angel wings. Tony and I send our love and prayers to family and friends.

Dee Novel - October 24, 2022 at 10:29 PM

RB

“ Kathy was such a wonderful person, always so nice to everyone, prayers for Randy , Grant and family. She was taken too soon and will be missed.

Rena Bratton - October 24, 2022 at 08:33 PM

SL

“ May Kathy rest in eternal peace in the arms of our Father. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family 🙏❤️🙏

Sheree Leonard - October 24, 2022 at 08:25 PM

MC

“ Kathy was a kind and generous person. She will be sadly missed by everyone. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Maria (Montes) Clyde - October 24, 2022 at 07:29 PM

MG

“ So sorry to hear of Kathy's passing. Many good memories in JM marching band and throughout high school. Prayers for her family.

Michele Hartley Gogolkiewicz - October 24, 2022 at 07:05 PM



“ Kathy was an amazing professor at West Liberty. I had her for a couple of classes in the early 2000s and always enjoyed our conversations on the newspaper industry and reporting. And she was always kind enough to endure my bemoaning about using Pagemaker in desktop publishing when most papers were using Quark. She treated you like a younger friend to whom she wanted to impart knowledge and not your usual teacher-college student style relationship. I always appreciated that. It made it easy to go to her with any questions.

Mike Hughes - October 24, 2022 at 05:59 PM

PW

“ To all of Kathy's family, my heart breaks with yours in the loss of this incredible woman. She was intelligent, kind and good hearted. Heaven is the better for her presence. You are all in my prayers, Patty Wylie

Patricia Wylie - October 24, 2022 at 05:47 PM

JO

“ It's hard to find words about the loss of this amazing woman, which is ironic given that she taught me so much about using my voice. Kathy was smart, funny, humble, and loving. She touched so many lives, and I'm not sure she was even aware. You are gone way too soon, my friend. My heart is broken. Love you bunches.

Jodi Omeear - October 24, 2022 at 05:36 PM

SS

“ Kathy my dear friend, I know you will be missed by so many. I am sure I am not alone as this news travels, so many who grew up with us that who will be at East End on the Tank or waiting for pool check to end perhaps They will be so excited to see you. Since it's raining I heard no band practice today, now you guys have more time to get ready for swim dance tonight. Then the slumber party is at your house after. Queen of Queens is next week, I think but you have an amazing voice. So many more memories I know alot of us were able to share with you. Myself I feel very blessed to have had you in my life. 💔 save me a spot on the swings that will be my first stop. Hugs till we meet again..

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**Susan Snow** - October 24, 2022 at 05:10 PM

RI

“ Kathy was one of the most genuine people I have ever known. Her respectful candor was very valuable to me as a burgeoning journalist back in the day. That's a rare character trait.

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**Rich** - October 24, 2022 at 04:59 PM

  
Margaret  
Williams  
DeCola

“ Kathy was a sweetheart! Went all through school with her and reconnected several years ago. She will be so missed. May she rest safely in the arms of Jesus.

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**Margaret Williams DeCola** - October 24, 2022 at 04:10 PM

SS



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**Susan Snow** - October 24, 2022 at 05:12 PM

GW

*Kathy was a beautiful person and friend! I worked with her at West Liberty University. My heart aches for her family. May God comfort all who loved her. RIP my friend.*

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**Gary Weisner** - October 24, 2022 at 07:11 PM

CN

*Kathy Jo was one of the first people I met when my family moved to 8th street in Moundsville, and has always been a friend, Prayers to her whole family.*

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**Corinda Nail** - October 28, 2022 at 08:40 PM