



Kathleen Lois Tanaka

September 16, 1952 - June 9, 2024

Kathleen Lois Tanaka, 71, went home to be with our Lord in heaven on June 9, 2024 after battling a long illness.

Born in Modesto, California to Harry and Bernice Carlson, Kathy, as she was known to her friends and family, grew up in nearby Ripon as the youngest of four children. Moving to Fresno, California for college, Kathy then worked for 29 years as the Director of Child Nutrition at Selma Unified School District, taught child nutrition at Fresno City College, and was a member of the American & California School Food Service Association, through which she attended numerous national conferences in Washington, DC. Outside of her work, Kathy enjoyed spending time with her family and watching her two children grow up—her greatest love and joy.

Kathy is survived by her loving husband of almost 44 years Kent, her daughter Katie and son-in-law Lee Porchia, and her son Kurtis. Kathy was preceded in death by her parents, Harry and Bernice Carlson of Ripon, her sister Gayl Nelson of Cupertino, and her brother Gary and sister-in-law Dolores Carlson of Ripon. She is also survived by her brother, Ken Carlson and brother-in-law LeRoy Nelson, as well as numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

A memorial and internment will be held at Park View Cemetery in Manteca, California on the anniversary of her passing.

Tribute Wall

JP

“ *Kathy , you sure did it right!
You have a loving husband, Kent and two adoring children, Kurtis and Katie!
I only know you for a short time but I could easily see that you brought so much joy and love to your family and friends.
I am so happy that your daughter has brought so much happiness to my son and now we share a wonderful bond.
Your sweet voice and infectious smile will always be with us as you look down on the happiness you have created.*

joni porchia - September 14, 2024 at 04:27 PM

JP

“ *Kathy was the epitome of strength and it showed evermore towards the end of her life. I got to know her after she was already fighting her battles. She became my north star every time things were going south. I only needed to think about her and I would find the strength I needed. For her there were no mountain heights that would stop her. She showed us that on Katie's wedding where she did made the special trip, pain and all, to make sure she was going to give her blessings and along a beautiful speech. She is forever in our hearts.*

Joe Porchia - September 14, 2024 at 12:02 PM

LE

“ Kathy was the most amazing sweetest and kindest person. Not a day would go by without her checking in on us or Tyson. I remember when I called to ask Kent for her permission to propose to his daughter, Kathy heard over the speaker and ripped the phone out of Kent's hands (I'm picturing him being tossed a few feet as well haha) and immediately starts happy crying Yes!! We never thought this day would come for Katie, Yes, Yes, yes! Just simply an amazing person that will be missed and never forgotten

Lee - September 14, 2024 at 11:23 AM

RD

“ I think my most special memory I have of my Great Aunt came these last few years after her sister (my grandmothers) passing. My grandma loved instagram and seeing photos of what I was up to and would like every single one and print them off and show them to the neighbors. After she passed my Great Aunt Kathy told me not to worry and she would continue to enjoy those photos for her. She faithfully liked and commented and messaged on every single photo I posted especially of our baby daughter who my Grandma never got to meet. The day that ended when Kathy passed I knew one that I missed her more that I realized I would and two that she was going to get to share all those memories now with my grandma. I miss you and love you Great Aunt Kathy!

Ryan Durbin - June 20, 2024 at 01:21 PM

ME

“ Kathy you were a great lady, it was nice knowing you, now you are dancing in Heaven with a new leg and all.



Megan - June 20, 2024 at 01:11 PM