



## Kristine Johnson

January 17, 1950 - July 7, 2023

Kristine Johnson, 73, of Long Lake, IL, passed away on Friday, July 7, 2023.

Kristine was born in Chicago on January 17, 1950, the daughter of the late Clarence and Margaret Sundberg. She graduated from Luther South High School in 1967 and then enrolled at the University of Wisconsin Whitewater. It was there, in October of that year, where Kristine met her future husband, Christopher, at the freshman dance and shared their first kiss at the little red schoolhouse.

After graduating UW Whitewater in 1971, Kristine and Christopher were married on June 10, 1972, and moved to southern Illinois where Kristine began her teaching and coaching career in Coulterville and DeSoto, IL.

Later, in 1981, the growing family moved to Glen Ellyn, IL. Kristine took an eight-year maternity leave to raise her three children, Linnae, Lauren, and Brent, and become their ultimate advocate, sports fan, Girl Scout leader, and travel partner.

In 1989, the family moved once more to Long Lake, IL where they built their forever home. Kristine returned to teaching at Woodland Middle School in Gurnee and eventually settled in for many years in the Grayslake school system, teaching at Avon and Grayslake Middle School.

Kristine earned her master's degree from National Louis University in 1994 and was nominated for the Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Leadership in 1997 and 2000 and Disney's American Teacher Awards in 2001. She was also a two-term member of the Gavin School Board of Education, serving one term as president.

Kristine completed her 35-year teaching career and retired in 2010. Her love for her students extended far beyond the classroom; Kristine could often be found at her students' extracurricular activities, homes, and even as a visitor in their hospital rooms.

After retiring, Kristine started her second career in childcare for her grandchildren, formally securing the name of Nonnie. She also enjoyed traveling and camping with her family and snowbirding to Naples, FL.

Kristine was a lifelong member, past Commodore, and former Head Judge of the Long Lake Yacht Club. She was a nature and animal lover (fur, feathers, and fins), and helped increase the wood duck population on Long Lake. She was an avid gardener, photographer, and rock painter. Kristine often dreamt of travel, but only visited a few places on her bucket list: Iceland, Alaska, Japan, and Mexico.

Kristine is survived by her husband of 51 years, Christopher; children Linnae (Michael) Schraner, Lauren (Jeremy) DeRuyter, and Brent (Amanda) Johnson; grandchildren Cadence Harting, Harper Harting, Greyson Johnson, and Bryce Johnson; sister Jerilyn (Randall) Bus; sister-in-law Marilyn Sundberg; sister-in-law Patricia (Richard) Threlkeld; and seven nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents Clarence and Margaret Sundberg, brother Sander (Marilyn, surviving) Sundberg, and by her parents-in-law

Steen and Marie Johnson.

A memorial service for Kristine will begin at 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 22, 2023, at Ringa Funeral Home in Lake Villa. The service will be livestreamed at <https://evt.live/kristine-johnson>. Visitation will be from 12 noon until the time of service. In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution in Kristine's memory to the ALS Association: [www.als.org/donate](http://www.als.org/donate)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 22. 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Ringa Funeral Home  
122 S. Milwaukee Ave.  
Lake Villa, IL 60046  
(847) 356-2146  
info@ringafuneralhome.com  
<https://www.ringafuneralhome.com>

## Live Cast

JUL 22. 3:00 PM.

<https://evt.live/kristine-johnson>

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## Memorial Service

JUL 22. 3:00 PM (CT)

Ringa Funeral Home  
122 S. Milwaukee Ave.  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Kristine Johnson*

October 04, 2023 at 02:13 PM



“ *Rosemary M. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kristine Johnson.*

**Rosemary M.** - July 23, 2023 at 01:33 PM



“ *You were my favorite teacher by far. I will always remember the light and happiness you shared. Thank you for letting me be apart of your story. Rest in peace and I hope we meet again*

**Kristen Silva** - July 22, 2023 at 09:12 PM



“ *I had pleasure of knowing Kristine and her family since 1990 when we moved to Lake Villa. Our daughters became good friends. Kristine invited me to help her start a Brownie troop for Lauren and Amie both in third grade then. We had so many laughs and good times durning those meetings and we went on to do Girl Scouts and fun continued. From there we experienced going to Junior High and on to High school events for Linnae,Alie,Lauren and Amie. Kristine made everyone feel included and her warm smile will always be remember. She will be missed by those she touched and her memories are in all of our hearts.*

*Susan Smit*

**susan Smit** - July 21, 2023 at 12:11 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Kristine Johnson.*



July 21, 2023 at 09:50 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kristine Johnson.

July 21, 2023 at 08:54 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Kristine Johnson.*



July 21, 2023 at 08:54 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kristine Johnson.*



July 20, 2023 at 11:48 AM



“ *Connie T. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kristine Johnson.*

**Connie T.** - July 18, 2023 at 07:47 AM

JH

“ I was lucky enough to co-teach with Kristine. We shared many a laugh over the course of the day. We were also fortunate to have a really good team supporting us! I especially valued how much she cared for each of the students and the folks with whom she worked. Kristine could always come up with alternative ways for us to teach-I was thankful to be able to work with her. She was a special person and will be greatly missed. Rest well and comfortably in the arms of the angels-you did good! 🌻 ☐ 🌻

Janis Hauptly - July 13, 2023 at 08:04 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Kristine Johnson.



July 13, 2023 at 07:41 PM

VS

“ Kristine put up such a valiant struggle against ALS, and we will miss her dearly. Her last few days were so hard on her and her family, but now she is at peace, free of pain. We were so happy when she and Chris were able to come out last Thanksgiving to spend time with the Schraner's, Mike and Linnae, and Bob and Vicki and Rob, along with all the four-legged friends. It had been a long time since their last visit. We had such a lovely Thanksgiving dinner at our home with all the family. Kristine was all smiles, truly enjoying the time with everyone. Later on in their visit we had were able to get together again at Mike and Linnae's. We gathered outside around the fire pit for libations and hors d'oeuvres and to enjoy the beautiful sunset. Kristine and Chris visited a lot in the earlier years, spending time at our home. We always remember Kristine in the morning with her Biscotti and Ipad. Kristine took wonderful photos. One year she took a picture of our Golden Retriever, Shadow, lounging outside on the patio. He looked so regal as if he had posed for her.. She had managed to capture him just at the right moment. That photo sits prominently in our family room. We were so glad to be able to spend one last visit with her and Chris last year. We know she is looking down from above, smiling and keeping a watch on all her family.  
Bob and Vicki Schraner

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**Vicki Schraner** - July 13, 2023 at 02:39 PM

CS

“ Connie Slotkin lit a candle in memory of Kristine Johnson



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**Connie Slotkin** - July 12, 2023 at 06:47 PM

CS

“*Kristine, you were one of the best teachers and one of the best people I've ever know. Rest In Peace.*

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**Connie Slotkin** - July 12, 2023 at 06:45 PM



“*Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Kristine Johnson.*



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July 12, 2023 at 01:39 PM

KE

“*Oh where to begin! I was fortunate enough to cross paths with Kristine ( my pal!) at Grayslake Middle School when I was a teachers aid partnered with her! We were a great team and made an impact on so many lives, it was beyond inspiring to see her connection to the students, parents and peers! “Mrs. J” will forever be known as more than just a teacher, she is an incredible human! Even if she marked me down on my end of year review for wearing jeans to school that had a hole in them! 🧡💚*

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**Kelly Erickson** - July 12, 2023 at 08:18 AM

SH

“*Kristine was one of a kind. Her kindness and warmth radiated through her beautiful smile and she had a laugh that insisted you join in. My greatest wish for you is that you hear that laugh and remember a good memory whenever sadness fills your heart.*

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**Stacey Hodits** - July 12, 2023 at 07:25 AM

MB

“ Amazing women. I worked with her at Grayslake Elementary District 46. Such a great laugh and sense of humor. So very sorry for your lose. May her memories be a blessing.

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**Melinda Bush** - July 11, 2023 at 07:12 PM

NB

“ Chris and family, I'm so sorry for your loss, and the awful ALS journey that Kris and you had to walk. Kris was a gift and now she can be at peace in God's arms. My friendship with Kris was confined to GMS and limited by my SLP schedule, ending - sadly - when I left GMS. Behind that firm jaw, you just knew Kris loved all – her family, her students, her teaching team. Kris was just what her students needed – tough on the outside and soft on the inside, and not afraid to share her opinion.

I got to be at the house for a teacher party once or twice, and as a fellow bird lover, was so envious. It totally explained her delight every spring when she shared which migrating birds had arrived on Long Lake week to week. It was such a good place for her bird photography! Prayers prayed for God's peace to console you in this sad time. May her memory be a blessing.

Nancy B., SLP at GMS from 1998 to 2008.

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**Nancy Borkman** - July 11, 2023 at 05:58 PM

PK

“ Patricia K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kristine Johnson.

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**Patricia K.** - July 11, 2023 at 03:40 PM

PK

“ Patricia K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kristine Johnson.

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**Patricia K.** - July 11, 2023 at 03:40 PM

WA

“ *Will Miss You Kristine.*



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**Wes and AJ** - July 11, 2023 at 03:24 PM