



Mrs. Kay Brumbaugh Woods

January 27, 2020

Kay Brumbaugh Woods, passed away on Monday, January 27, 2020. Kay dedicated her life to helping others through teaching and volunteering. She began her career in early childhood development as a preschool teacher and director in Pueblo, CO. Upon moving to Ocean Springs with her family in 1966, Kay founded St. John's Episcopal Preschool and Kindergarten. Kay always encouraged her students in academics, art, music and dance with a loving, nurturing and unique approach. Many of her former students will remember the story of the little leprechaun that "Ms. Kay" said lived under the church. Every year around St. Patrick's Day, Ms. Kay would take them to a tiny door in anticipation of the leprechaun's arrival. This is just one example of how she helped encourage imagination and create memories for her hundreds of students over the years. Kay retired in 2009 after 45 years of service.

Kay's contribution to her community didn't stop with education. She volunteered in numerous capacities throughout the years, making an impact wherever she went. Kay spent a decade on the 1699 Landing of D'Iberville Celebration; was a member of St. Luke's Guild, which sponsored children to attend her preschool; and held positions on other boards and committees, actively participating with each and every one.

In the early eighties, after working with the Peace Corps for three years, Kay was tasked with the final project of creating a program to benefit local citizens in need. In 1983, she brought together a group of concerned citizens to establish The Lord Is My Help as a certified 501(c)(3) non-profit. When the organization began, they were serving approximately 400 meals per month. Today, the organization, which was led by Kay for 36 years, serves more than 5,000 meals. As Kay described it, "When I see the look on a child's face when they experience a new challenge or the tears in a person's eyes because they had no hope before they found The Lord is My Help, then I know it's all been worthwhile."

As hard as Kay worked, she always made time to travel with her late husband, Don. She treasured her many friends and loved more than anything spending time with her children,

grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents, (Dad) William Brumbaugh, (Mom) Irma Hoffman, (Stepdad) John Hoffman and (Spouse), Donald Woods.

Survivors include her children, LouAnn DiNero Sekul (Rock), Kenny DiNero (Ginger) and Delores Castillo (Rafael), brother, Raymond Brumbaugh, grandchildren, Chase Sekul (Liz), Clete DiNero (Diana), Keely Newman (Kelly), Tina Griffin (Tim), Sundi Fortenberry, Martin Martinez and Joe Martinez and great-grandchildren, Lila, Lucy, Lowell, Luther, Townes, Welles, Londin, Anthony, and Ava.

A reception for friends to gather will be on Thursday, February 6, from 2pm until 3 pm, with a 3pm Memorial Service, all at St John's Episcopal Church in Ocean Springs.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to The Lord is My Help Soup Kitchen in Ocean Springs.

Thank you to our wonderful caregivers Dora Young, Theresa Gibson, Evelyn Bernard, Tina Griffin, Doreen Dawson, Glenda Mitchell and her special niece Carolyn Demarcus.

The Ocean Springs Chapel of Bradford O'Keefe Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Events

FEB **Visitation** 02:00PM - 03:00PM

6

St. John's Episcopal Church

705 Rayburn Ave., Ocean Springs, MS, US, 39564

Comments



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Kay Brumbaugh Woods.



February 05 at 02:13 PM



“ To Louann, Kenny and family....please accept my deepest sympathy at the passing of MS Kay. She was an extraordinary woman with so much love in her heart for others. She share her heart, her caring and her time for so many others. She remembered and cared for all the children who passed through her life. She was a fountain of information, not only about her present home, but her birthplace. I enjoyed so much the conversations and the little time I spent with her. There are no words really to ease the loss of her, but may the memories of her and her wonderful life bring some peace to all of you. May God bless all of you. Sherry Miguez Hankins

Sherry Miguez Hankins - February 05 at 12:47 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with all of Kay's family as they remember the legacy of this great lady. A great boss and special friend, she was an encouragement to us all who loved to teach preschoolers. Work was never dull and always fun when you got to teach and play every day. Words to "We all went to the Audobon Zoo" will always float in my head when I think of Kay. Preparing 2 year olds to be turkeys at thanksgiving, and Kay helping me "Stuff" them with newspaper as well as all the other chaos of those days. I spent 12 years with Kay and regretted when I told her I had to move on to other things. I will miss you my friend but God has his angel home. - Michaele Dethloff

Michaele Dethloff - February 02 at 11:27 AM



“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Kay Brumbaugh Woods.



January 30 at 02:18 PM



“ It has been an honor to follow in your footsteps at St. John's Episcopal Preschool and Kindergarten. Your impact at the school and on the many children you educated will last a lifetime. Thank you for all the educational and loving gifts you have shared with so many people, both young and old, over many decades. You are now among God's angels.

Ms Jean
Director St John's Episcopal Preschool and Kindergarten

Jean C Matteson - January 30 at 11:15 AM



“ We extend our sincere sympathy and value your trust during this time of remembrance and reflection. We pledge our support now and in the future.

The Staff and Management of Bradford-O'Keefe Funeral Homes

Bradford O'Keefe - January 29 at 02:56 PM