



## Judi Braaksma

June 19, 2017 - June 19, 2017

After a brief battle with brain cancer, Judi Braaksma, 68, of Oskaloosa passed away Monday, June 19, 2017, at the MHP Hospice Serenity House, surrounded by her family. Judith Ilene Hardeman Braaksma, the oldest of six children, was born December 21, 1948, in Oskaloosa to Dick and Josephine (De Groot) Hardeman and was raised on the family farm northeast of Oskaloosa. She began her schooling in a one-room school close to her home and later transferred to the Rose Hill Public School District. She graduated from Oskaloosa High School in 1967 and then attended William Penn College where she received a BA in secondary education. She began her teaching career at the Knoxville Junior High School and then transferred to the Knoxville High School. She retired in 2005 after more than 30 years of teaching. She loved her students and was proud that many went on to become lawyers, doctors, nurses, and other professions. To this day she still refers to them as “my babies.” In 1970, she was united in marriage to Dean Braaksma, and to that union two daughters were born. Judi enjoyed watching her grandsons play basketball, baseball and their many other activities. She also enjoyed reading, quilting and having coffee at Smokey Row on Tuesday morning with a group of friends. Judi loved people and enjoyed meeting and visiting with them. She was a life-long member of Central Reformed Church where she served in a variety of roles: Sunday school teacher, GEMS and RCYF counselor, Bible School teacher and kitchen helper for Bible School. She was a member of the church’s centennial committee, organized Meals

from the Heartland packing events for the church members, was a member of the Congregational Life Committee, and served as editor of the church newsletter for several years. Her family includes her husband of almost 47 years, Dean; her daughters: Angelisa (Chris) Fynaardt and Jennifer Norgaila, both of Oskaloosa. Dean and Judi were blessed with three grandsons: Drew and Luke Fynaardt and Finley Norgaila. Her extended family includes her siblings: Mary Ostrem of Oskaloosa, Carole (Jim) Harvey of Oskaloosa, Rick (Traci) Hardeman of Park View, Iowa, Kathy (Lowell) Engelhoven of Oskaloosa, and Kris (John) Korte of Westerly, Rhode Island. In addition to her parents, Judi was preceded in death by her maternal and paternal grandparents and several cousins, aunts and uncles. Funeral services for Judi will be held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday morning, June 24, at the Central Reformed Church with Pastor Andy Baker officiating. A family prayer service will precede the service at 10:15 a.m. in the east lounge of the church. Burial will be held privately at a later time. Visitation will begin at 11 a.m., Friday morning at Garland-Van Arkel-Langkamp Funeral Chapel; the family will greet visitors from 5-7 p.m. Friday evening. Memorials may be made to MHP Hospice Serenity House or to the Baker Family Nicaraguan Mission Journey c/o RCE International #34914.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Judi Braaksma*

October 05, 2023 at 11:57 PM



“ *I'm so sad to learn that Mrs. Braaksma is no longer with us. She was a really wonderful teacher--strong, focused, caring and wickedly funny. She challenged and encouraged her students, not just looking at our writing as an editor but as a reader. She gave me the most thoughtful graduation gift in response to something I'd written about my college days yet to come. I remember and appreciate her. Best wishes and condolences to her family.*

**Callen Williams** - July 17, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Braaksma Family, So sorry to learn of Judi's passing. She was a very special woman, caring, funny, and a gift to the world of classrooms. I enjoyed teaching with Judi for many years. We all often wondered if we made a difference; Judi did. My condolences to her family.*

**Bud Bright** - June 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dean and family, we are so sorry to hear about Judy's passing. Our prayers are with all of you. She has been fighting for a long time. She was so upbeat all the time and a real kick to be around when we were at the lake. If you ever need to just get away, take a road trip and come see us out here in Washington. We would love to see you. Butch and Georgia Smedema Yakima, Wa.*

June 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ So sorry to hear about your loss. Our Thoughts and Prayers are with you Dean and your Family .Jeff and Jill Ferguson

Jeff Ferguson - June 24, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ So sorry to hear about Judi. She was a great teacher. She had that special ability to bond with her students. Angelissa, I'm so sorry. I lost my mom a year ago. Keep the memories close. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.Lori (Betterson) MorganKHS Class of 1979KCSD East & West

Lori Morgan - June 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM

KJ

“ Braaksma Family,I'm so sorry to hear about Judi's passing. She was one of my teachers (8th grade English, Sophomore Speech, and College Composition). I have many fond memories of her. Please know that you're in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.Sincerely,Kim Jolly (KHS Class of 1990)

Kim Jolly - June 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Angelisa and Family, It's tough to lose a mother, however, she will be in your hearts forever. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Matt Mitchell - June 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM

ME

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you. May God's grace and your special memories help you to heal during this time of grief.

Michelle Earhart - June 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ So sorry to hear of the loss of Judy. We were neighbors to Judy & her family when they lived on the farm. We were in the same 4-H club, went to & later helped with the Wymore Bible School we had every summer. I had many nice visits with Judy, Mary, Carol & their spouses whenever we'd run into each other in Osky or Pella & enjoyed catching up with each other's families. I'm sure her Mom & Dad, her aunts & uncles & many others are overjoyed to have Judy in heaven with them but Heaven's gain is certainly our loss. May you all feel God's presence in the days, weeks & even years to come.

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**Carolyn** - June 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ I will miss Judi on Tuesday mornings at Smokey Row. She was a wonderful friend. My thoughts and prayers are with her family. Karen and Leroy Rouw

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**Karen Rouw** - June 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

NM

“ Sorry to hear of your loss Carole, Mary, and all of your families. We have you in our thoughts and prayers. Sincerely, Nancy Stapp McCurdy and Donald McCurdy

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**Nancy Stapp McCurdy** - June 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ Mrs. Braaksma was a wonderful woman and teacher. Sad to hear of her passing. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

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**Tracie Hauenstein** - June 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ *She was a wonderful teacher. I had her for sophomore speech and mass media. Prayers for her family. I know she's getting her gold star in Heaven.*

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**Connie Cox** - June 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *She will be missed, I had her for an English teacher growing up at the high school in Knoxville and she was always one of my favorite people, she always had a smile for you and had a way of making things easier for someone who had a tough time with speaking in front of large crowds. My thoughts and prayers are with her family during this tough time.*

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**Jo Brooks** - June 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *I am truly sorry to hear of your loss. Hold on to the happy memories and keep them alive in your hearts. My deepest condolences to you and your family.*

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**Jim Cope** - June 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

EM

“ *Mrs. Braaksma was my absolute favorite high school teacher. She helped me realize potential that I did not know I had. I have thought of her many times since graduating in 1995, and I credit her for sparking much needed ambition in me. I am certain that the spiritual fruits of her life are many, and for that we can celebrate.*

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**Emily** - June 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Dean and girls, We are deeply saddened by the loss of your wife and mom, Judi. She fought a great battle and was such a positive person through out her fight! May God surround you with His tender arms and hold you during this sad time and into the future days that lay ahead. I'll miss her!!Love, Carole and Harold Comstock

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**Carole Comstock** - June 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ Judi was a wonderful mentor for a lot of us at KHS. Her passion for her students was second to none. Our prayers are with the family during this difficult time.

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**Matt** - June 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

GA

“ Offering our deepest condolences during this difficult time.

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**Garland** - June 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM