



Mary Jo "Josie" Lukey

May 22, 1932 - November 6, 2023

Mary Jo "Josie" Lukey, 91, of Bloomington, IN, passed away peacefully Sunday, November 5, 2023. She died as she lived - with love, humor and appreciation.

Josie was born on May 22, 1932 in Roxana, IL to the late William Daniel and Alene Clamantha Bost.

Our dear dear Mother, Grandmother, Aunt, Friend, Teacher has left us behind for joyous reunions with her beloved Jack, family, friends, and Savior. Oh, how we'll miss her, but she left us with countless memories to treasure and use in our lives.

Josie grew up knowing everyone in Roxana. She just never met a stranger or someone who wasn't lovable. We thought she'd been a real goody two shoes, but were surprised when her friend told us she was always in trouble for talking too much! She was surrounded by many loving, somewhat taciturn Aunts and Uncles, but turned out to be the fun one! She was very serious about her piano though, elocution competitions, being an excellent student, and the best friend a person could have.

Mom went to Illinois Wesleyan University to become a concert pianist, but 2 ½ years later she fell in love, got married, and shared her love of music till her last day. You may have heard her soothing or motivating melodies in a nursing home, or grown in confidence in her Junior Music Club. Maybe you enjoyed her programs designed for children to perform and to shine. Maybe she was your piano teacher, celebrating your success with unabashed YAHOOOS!

Perhaps you heard her lovely voice singing in the aisles of Kroger, or behind you in church. You might have been in a choir she directed in a Navy chapel overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, or in a play she directed on some naval base in the Pacific. Our family will cherish the times we could be together singing, calling out our favorites till dawn or our voices croaked.

Josie was a Navy wife for nearly 25 years, and appeared to effortlessly surmount this truly arduous task, moving her family about the country (or to a foreign land) every two years with great enthusiasm - never a complaint! Mom and Dad made many lifelong friends, and hosted many young servicemen to a taste of familyhood far from their own homes. Mom touched many lives in many places and probably remembered them all, and would tell how they touched HER.

If she knew you, she truly loved and cared about you. If she didn't know you, well, she wanted to! She was grateful for all her opportunities and made the best use of them to help and serve her family and anyone she could.

Survived by her children Mark, Danny, Linda, and Paul John, 2 nieces and 23 grandchildren, we will remember her as God's gift of love and joy.

In lieu of flowers, we would like to suggest doing something nice for someone in need. Mom would like that!

Calling hour will be held Saturday December 2, 2023 at 1pm, memorial service to follow at 2pm. Bloomington Free Methodist Church, 1121 S. Lincoln St., Bloomington, IN

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory have been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences, photos and memories may with shared with the family and friends at www.allencares.com

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 2. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Bloomington Free Methodist Church
1121 S. Lincoln Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

Memorial Service

DEC 2. 2:00 PM (ET)

Bloomington Free Methodist Church
1121 S. Lincoln Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

Tribute Wall

SA

“ I'm a little late on this, but Mrs. Lukey (as we knew her) was our babysitter for several years in the 70's. She was with us when my father died and when we moved from our house to a condo. She helped out more than she was asked to and for that my mother, my sister, and I were forever grateful. She was a happy face when we needed one, she had a laugh and a joke when we needed one, she could cheer anyone up with a smile and a hug. My sister and I used to slide ourselves up the panel wall and against the ceiling and drop on her as she carried laundry down the hall...I can still hear her little sing-songs as she danced around. She loved playing the piano and cried when we told her that we named our new kitten after her ("Josie"). She was such a bright light in my life and I loved her so. Anybody who had her in their life for even the briefest time was a better person for it.

Susan (Madden) Adam - August 27, 2025 at 03:52 PM

GJ

“ So sorry for your loss, Josie was special. I knew Josie from her time with the Junior Music Festival in Bloomington. She was so kind, cheerful and funny all the while encouraging us and reminding us that encouraging the love of music was the real goal of the Festival, not perfect performances. She just loved everyone. She encouraged us all to do our part so the Festival would continue from recruiting volunteers to going to the State meetings so we in Bloomington would not be overlooked. We should all try to do something nice for someone who needs help, to honor her. Prayers for peace for her family and that her joy may continue in all of you.

Ginny Jones - December 01, 2023 at 12:06 PM

CH

“ Sending our condolences on the passing of Josie. She was the SWEETEST, kindest person. Both of our daughters were part of her Junior Music Club for many years. SO sorry for your loss!

The Hetricks...Bill, Carol, Alexandra and Gabrielle

carol hetrick - November 27, 2023 at 09:43 PM

NM

“ We send Josie's family our heartfelt sympathy. You all were so fortunate to have such a warm, loving and talented mother and family member. We remember her fondly as she played the Sunday School piano for our children's music time at First Methodist. Although that was over 30 years ago, I can see her smiling enthusiasm and fun as she engaged all the children with her music and spirit.

*With love for comfort and peace,
Nancy and Chuck Macklin*

Nancy Macklin - November 27, 2023 at 02:10 PM

SP

Our family and her Woodview Hills family loved Josie so much! What a kind, sweet, faithful woman...so many memories of our kids' piano recitals in her living room. She instilled the love of music in many. As a former neighbor and dear friend... she will be missed! The Pickel family

Sandi Pickel - November 30, 2023 at 12:06 PM

CH

“ We wanted to express our condolences on the loss of Josie!! She was the SWEETEST, KINDEST person. Both of our daughters were regular attendees of the Junior Music Club that she hosted. On occasion we would see her and her husband around town. She gave me a tablecloth that was from Germany as my mother was German and lived with us for a little bit. Will never forget her!!

SO sorry for your loss!

Love,

The Hetricks...Bill, Carol, Allie, and Gabbie.

Carol Hetrick - November 27, 2023 at 10:31 AM

AF

“ I knew John and Josef when we were active members of First United Methodist Church, Bloomington. The obituary captured Josie's spirit so well. One memory I have is of Josie listening to a tape of music I brought back from a Methodist church in Jaima, Sierra Leone. Somehow, Josie was able to discern the lyrics and translate what she heard into a musical score. Her children's choirs joined our chancel choir to sing this as an anthem one Sunday morning.

On a very personal level, in September 2007, my husband died. That Christmas season I found John at my door holding a huge poinsettia for me as a gesture reminding me he and Josie were thinking about me during the first holiday season without my husband.

anne fraker - November 26, 2023 at 09:30 AM