



Kay Ellen Branch

April 9, 1952 - January 11, 2025

Kay Ellen Branch passed away on January 11, 2025, in Spokane Valley at the age of 72. Her husband, Bill, and daughter, Taryn, were by her side.

Kay was born in Colfax, Wash., on April 9, 1952, to Harold and Gladys Kirkpatrick. Kay grew up in Colfax. She graduated from Colfax High School in 1970 where she was a cheerleader and met the love of her life, Bill Branch. Bill followed Kay to Eastern Washington University (she was the studious one in the relationship) and they were married in 1971. After a brief stopover in Great Falls, Mont., they moved to Edmonds, Wash., where they started their family.

Kay was a wonderful mother to Justin and Taryn. As the children grew older, she began teaching math at Edmonds Community College. She went back to school and received her Master of Education from the University of Washington in 1992. Upon completion of her degree, the family moved to Oak Harbor, Wash., where Kay began teaching high school Math. Kay loved teaching and was awarded Oak Harbor Teacher of the Year in 1998. In 2006, Kay and Bill followed their daughter, Taryn, back to Eastern Washington purchasing their dream home on Williams Lake, near Cheney. Soon after, Kay became a Grandma—a role she cherished.

Kay was incredibly intelligent and had a wonderful sense of humor. Even after

suffering strokes in 1999, her sharp wit and warmth remained intact. She could light up a room with her jokes, making even the toughest times feel lighter. She got such a kick out of the little things, and you couldn't help but feel so warm with her. You always felt at home with Kay. She was exactly who she was. Her ability to love unconditionally, support without hesitation, and laugh freely will truly be missed.

Kay is survived by her husband Bill; her brothers, Larry, Terry, and Al; sister, Judy; her children, Justin Branch and wife Julie, Taryn Bare, and husband Tate; grandchildren, Joie and Paisley Branch, Lily, Bryce, and Silas Bare. Each brought great joy into her life.

There will be a memorial service at Cheney Funeral Chapel at 1 pm on Friday, January 17th.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 17. 1:00 PM (PT)

Cheney Funeral Chapel
1632 W 1st St.
Cheney, WA 99004
(509) 235-2992
<https://www.cheneyfuneral.com/>

Tribute Wall

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“ Kay was a wonderful mother, a wonderful wife, a great teacher, and a great friend. We have so many fun memories with her and Bill and their kids. We met when our boys started first grade together. Then they had soccer together, then basketball, then baseball, etc. Two years later our girls became friends as they started school. Kay and Bill’s house was the center of fun. We watched so many Seahawks and Sonics game there. One time we sent the kids out and they came back and did a skit at half time singing the song “Lolipop Lolipop....” It was so spontaneous and so cute. Kay and Bill had hot tub parties that were always fun. There was us-the Abdos, the Beckers, and the Chaddertons. I always admired Kay because she was so thrifty, always found the best bargains, and she loved garage sales like I did! Our husbands fished together , then our boys joined them, and now our grandsons fish with them at Leader Lake.

Kay also organized camping trips for our kids school. Started with 60 families and every year it grew in popularity. Camp Silverton was a memory she and Bill created for so many kids!

As a math teacher, she understood students who didn’t “get it” and would help them succeed. That has to be the reason she was chosen Teacher of the Year.

Thanks for all the memories and fun times Kay. We love you.

Steve and Trudy Abdo

Trudy Abdo - January 16, 2025 at 01:02 AM