



Lu Ann Carrigan

August 7, 1956 - January 3, 2025

Lu A. Carrigan, age 68, of Peoria, Illinois, moved on to bigger and better things on January 3, 2025, at Carle Methodist Hospital in Peoria. In the last of her pain-stricken days (thanks cancer), she told us 3 things: she was dying, she was going to heaven, and that she has two husbands there. We hoped she was wrong about the first one, but alas, here we are. Life is short, but sweet for certain.

Lu graced the world with her presence on August 7, 1956, and not one time in her short 68 years of life did she provide a dull moment. She was born to Donald Greene and Jean (Fiesler) Goff in East St. Louis, Illinois, and ended up being the middle of five girls. She married William “B” Kendall in 1984 and together they had two daughters. Lu later met and married Lawrence “Larry” Carrigan in 1999 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Peoria. Since both husbands preceded her in death, we can only assume Lu’s third “prediction” was true.

Besides the two husbands, Lu was preceded in death by her father, Donald Greene; step-father, Bob Goff; sisters, Sherry Ford and Chrissy Greene; and many beloved friends and pets.

Lu is survived by her daughters, Annie and Pam Kendall both of Peoria; granddaughter, Allison McNab of Peoria; mother, Jean Goff of Bartonville; sisters, Dina (Dave Schaab) Cline and Pam (Dave) Briggs both of Bartonville; and her partner, Thomas Everitt, with whom she made her home.

Larry introduced her to the Catholic church, and she quickly found what felt like home. Lu's faith was strong, even in her darkest days. She was a godly woman, and if you heard her cuss – pretend you didn't. (Hey, it gave her something to confess!) She was a firm believer that if you change the way you think about something, your outlook will significantly improve. She always said, "You have to think positive." Lu chose St. Francis as her confirmation saint because of their shared love for animals. Lu once adopted the wildest German Shepard (Murphy) at the dog pound claiming that he "just needed a little love." (He needed obedience school, too, but that was her best boy, and we just continued to pretend the "needing a little love" thing was working.) We are hopeful that he was there to welcome her into the afterlife, even if it was just to ask for a carrot. Another time she named and tried to keep a stink bug alive because it was too cold outside for it. (His name was Alfie, if you wondered.)

Some of Lu's childhood memories and stories were about spending time with her grandma, Anna, breaking 9 bones (a middle child's gotta get some attention somehow!), dancing and singing with her older sisters, and trying to escape the torment brought upon her by her younger sister chasing her with frogs. Little did she know, these seemingly small events would shape her future. It turned out that Lu loved concerts and music of all kinds, and you guessed it – she was terrified of frogs ("Hey! I apologized!" – Lu's younger sister, Pam, ~60 years after the fact).

Lu never met a stranger and knew someone everywhere she went (literally). To know her was to love her. She was selfless, kind, caring, considerate, funny, full of love for God and all His creatures big and small (not frogs), and she lit up every room she walked into (sorry, mom - you knew it was coming). Her prized possessions weren't "things" – they were the people she had in her life. Whether she knew you for years or only just met you, she cherished the connection. Lu loved helping any way she could. Maybe this meant giving a few dollars to someone on the corner because "they are someone's child/mother/father/etc." or helping carry someone's groceries to their car. It was typical of her to give everyone the benefit of the doubt and to treat people and animals the way Jesus would treat them. It's because of her genuine love and compassion for others that we believe her second forecast to be true.

In her free time, Lu enjoyed spending time with her favorite (only) granddaughter, Allison, watching Bluey with her younger daughter, Pam, laughing with her older daughter, Annie, and being around family and friends. She spent a lot of time bonding with her pet birds, dogs and cats. She made it a household tradition to have tacos every Tuesday, pizza every Friday, and roast ONLY on Sunday's. Lu loved the winter, and we like to think it was her who sent the snow the day after her passing.

Lu worked for SEAPCO and more recently as a caregiver to her daughter, who has Cerebral Palsy. She earned her associate's degree in early childhood education and loved working with kids. Lu taught CCD and was the Director of Religious Education at St. Ann Catholic Church for over 15 years. She was an oblate with the brother of St. John, and a long-time member of St. Joseph

Catholic Church in Peoria.

Lu was the absolute best mom and grandma her girls could ask for. There wasn't an obstacle too big for her to overcome (except this recent touch of cancer, but she wasn't afraid of death, so ultimately, she won. Lu – 1, Cancer – 0). She was a great example of what a mother and grandmother should be. Her patience and sense of humor were unmatched. The void in our lives without her is tremendous, but not nearly as big as her faith in God and heaven. This brings us comfort and hope that we will see her again one day.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A funeral mass will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Peoria on Saturday, February 8, 2025 at 10 am, with a visitation to start one hour prior at 9 am. If you knew Lu, you wouldn't be surprised that her funeral is quite a bit later than her passing. This is fitting because Lu was never in a hurry to get anything done (which she evidently willed to her daughter). Plus, she's likely too preoccupied with David Bowie to be worried about what we are doing down here.

In LU (see what we did there?) of flowers, memorials can be made to Apostolic Christian Timber Ridge in Morton in her daughter Pam Kendall, or sister Chrissy Greene's name.

Words of comfort can be shared with the Carrigan family at www.SchmidtHall.com

Tribute Wall

WC

“ *Lu was a good friend, She was always cheerful. I will sorely miss her. she was full of love.*

Wayne Calahan - April 03, 2025 at 04:07 PM

KM

“ *I met lu at SEAPCO years ago at Limestone High when we were Parapros there. Then I did a Watch at St. Anns, and there she was again. Such a sweet girl ! We became friends on Facebook to keep up on each other's lives. I followed her diagnosis and prayed along for her, she had a hell of a fight to fight. I just looked for her today,because I had not seen her, and found that she had passed. So sorry to you girls, mom and sisters. God Bless . Kathy Marsh*

Kathy Marsh - January 19, 2025 at 02:27 PM

JH

“ *I met Lu at a St. Ann's WATCH weekend. She was so welcoming and friendly, it was impossible not to love her. We have kept in touch through Facebook, which helped me get to know her better. I will miss her and know her family will too. I'm so sorry for your loss.*

Jan Houston - January 18, 2025 at 09:16 PM

MC

“ *Lu was great lady I will miss lu so much lu married Larry carrigan I mateline Carrigan Larry Carrigan Olds brother Robet Carrigan that how I met lu from the day I married Robert I new lu had a heart of gold lu would help anyone she and whatever anything back lu wa\nbest lady I meet Tell Larry Robert I miss them and thank about them all the time love you lu I will miss the talk we had Mateline Carrigan*

Mateline Carrigan - January 18, 2025 at 09:39 AM

DB

“ I was so fortunate to get to know Lu as the one who helped her often at the Pharmacy, where I worked. Her Larry was the one I called my \"twin \" as we shared the same exact birthday. Lu always had a smile and a hug when she came in the store. It was not possible to forget she is my friend and share about our families. I have thought about all of you often. I do know we will see each other one day. Lu always shared that faith so strongly, that she helped me keep my own strong. Thank you for sharing her so patiently and know I think of \"her girls\" and wish you all the best often.

Debra Briggs - January 11, 2025 at 04:11 PM

CW

“ I met Lu when Pammy was in grade school. I was her bus driver. Lu was a very sweet and loving person. We stay in touch even after Pammy graduated. We seen each other recently at Walmart were I work. We had alot of catching up to do. But didn't have the chance. Her daughters and her granddaughter meant everything to her. I know she's looking down and watching over them. Going to miss you my friend. Charlotte

Charlotte Whittenburg - January 11, 2025 at 02:52 PM

BW

“ Annie and Pam, you all used to live across the street from me when I first met your mom. She was a sweet person and I'm sorry for your loss. I have kept in touch with her a little through my children who both work at Timber Ridge. I praise God for the eternal life we have in Christ. For the believer death is just the beginning. 🙏🙏
Beverly Williams

Beverly Williams - January 11, 2025 at 08:52 AM

CH

“ Lu & I met at Pekin High & immediately became friends (impossible not to!) Had lots of fun times in school but sadly after school ended we lost touch. Years later I was coming out of Big Lots store in East Peoria & we ran into each other. It was like no time had passed at all. Lots of hugging & laughing! After that we stayed in touch thru messages & Facebook. We played games together & sent pictures and videos back & forth. \nI'm gonna miss Lu terribly each & every day but I know she's happy and we'll catch up again someday!

Carrie Hayes - January 10, 2025 at 08:52 PM

SJ

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. I worked with Dina. She was always happy to share stories about birthdays and holidays together. Please accept my condolences at this very sad time. Prayers to your mom and sisters Dina.

Sherry Johnson - January 10, 2025 at 08:07 PM

TD

“ Lu was an Oblate with The community of St. John. I remember The Joy Lu had when she made her oblature. Truly, a woman of prayer who trusted in God in all circumstances. May we learn from Lu to place our trust in God, no matter the circumstances of our own lives. \nI will have a Mass Prayed for Lu At St Ann's Church in Peoria, Il \nEternal rest grant unto Lu Oh Lord, and let your perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in your eternal peace. Amen

Terry Davis - January 10, 2025 at 07:52 PM

LG

“ Lu was my first friend as a new student at Pekin High School and we stayed close friends for the next 53 years. I have millions of memories that keep flooding back to me but one of my favorites is how we celebrated our birthdays every year. I’m 5 days older than Lu and every year she reminded me of that! I’ve never listened to a Todd Rundgren or David Bowie song without Lu coming to mind and so glad we had one final concert together last year when we went to see Queen. Her deep faith was inspiring, her friendship was a lifelong gift, and I know Jesus welcomed her with open arms. ❤️

Iorri graham - January 10, 2025 at 06:28 PM

TO

“ Lu you will be truly be missed soo much... When we first met at my job and u would turn all the items to to bar code to help me ring the items up I have always adored you!! I could not ask for a much nicer.. kinder.. lovely customer. You always put a smile on my face and oh that box of chocolate u bought me on my bad day... I will never forget it or you.. Rest in peace now my friend I will see u again some day... ❤️❤️❤️❤️😁😁😁😁

Tracy Ortega - January 10, 2025 at 06:23 PM

JJ

“ I met Lu in the 1990’s and don’t ever recall her without a smile and a kind word. She lived and breathed positivity and compassion. She will be missed by many.

Jill Jones - January 10, 2025 at 05:34 PM

MH

“ May God grant eternal rest to Lu.

Maggie Hall - January 10, 2025 at 05:19 PM

PH

“ Lu was one of the best person I have ever met. Always willing to help but wouldn't take help shewas funny loving and very spiritual soul. Her and I share the same birthday, and our daughters Pam and Ashley both have cerebral palsy went to school together and they too almost shared birthdays one day apart, Pam's being Sept 4 Ashley Sept. 5 so we knew we were suppose to be friènds.friends. I feel so lost without her, we always shared so much, good bad and the ugly lol. I know she wasn't scared of dying she was scared of leaving her girls behind. Her daughters and granddaughter was her world. I know God got a beautiful angel, and I hope she's dancing in the sky. Lu you are truly missed. ❤️

Pam Hughes - January 10, 2025 at 04:54 PM

CA

“ My sweet Ant Lulu. You're forever missed so much already!! ILY

Cayce - January 10, 2025 at 04:44 PM

CB

“ I met lu thru Larry and cursillo and Facebook. We shared posts of lost dogs and music. We messaged and I miss that. I only met her in person once and very glad I did. Prayers for her girls. She loved you

Christine Becker - January 10, 2025 at 04:39 PM