



## Sharon K. "Yntema" Kniola

May 20, 1941 - September 28, 2024

Sharon K. Kniola, 83, of St. Joseph passed away, peacefully, on September 28, 2024, at Corewell Hospital in St. Joseph, Michigan.

Sherry was born May 20, 1941, to Clarence and Emma Jean Yntema in Zeeland, MI. She graduated from Zeeland High School in 1959 and went on to receive her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Western Michigan University and later, her master's degree in early childhood education from Michigan State University.

Sherry was a talented baton twirler, who travelled to contests throughout the Midwest in her teens and later twirled as a majorette in the WMU Marching Band. At WMU, she was also a member of the Chi Omega sorority and on the homecoming court.

On August 10, 1962, Sherry married Dennis F. Kniola in Zeeland, Michigan, and they shared 62 wonderful years together.

After one year teaching for Portage Schools, Sherry moved to Lakeshore Public Schools in Stevensville and Baroda, where she taught Kindergarten, Phys Ed and launched the Music and Motion program for early education. Sherry received the R. James Johnson Educator Award, naming her Teacher of the Year, in 1989. She taught at Lakeshore for 30 years before retiring

Sherry is survived by her husband, Denny; children Mike (Nancy) Kniola of White House, TN, Nancy (Jamie) Poelker of Stevensville, MI, Dan (Jennifer) Kniola of Gainesville, GA, and Kathy (Jason) Pawlowski of Milton, GA; seven grandchildren, Savannah (Josh) Jones, Gerrit Marshall, Dalton Kniola, Lucas Kniola, Tyler and Ella Pawlowski and Jason Robinson; sisters Sally (George) LeFevre of San Diego, CA, Nancy Long of Woodstock, GA and sister-in-law Mary Bouwens of Zeeland, MI. Sherry was preceded in death by her parents, brother, Roger Yntema and niece, Kristi Yntema.

Visitation is 5:00-7:00 PM, Friday, October 11, 2024, at Starks & Menchinger Chapel, 2650 Niles Road, St. Joseph, MI 49085. Funeral services will be 11:00 AM, Saturday, October 12, 2024, at the Stevensville United Methodist Church, 5506 Ridge Road, Stevensville, MI 49127 with a luncheon following.

Please remember that we will be celebrating Sherry's life, and per her wishes, colorful clothing is requested. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Lakeshore Excellence Foundation, 5771 Cleveland Avenue, Stevensville, MI 49127.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **11.** 5:00 AM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Starks & Menchinger Chapel  
2650 Niles Road  
St. Joseph, MI 49085

## Funeral Service

OCT **12.** 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Stevensville United Methodist Church  
5506 Ridge Road, , MI 49127  
Stevensville, MI 49127

# Tribute Wall



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sharon K. "Yntema" Kniola.*



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October 10, 2024 at 12:24 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sharon K. "Yntema" Kniola.*



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October 03, 2024 at 02:49 PM



“ *Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Sharon K. "Yntema" Kniola.*



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October 02, 2024 at 08:53 PM



“ *Carolyn Pampalone Rabbers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sharon K. "Yntema" Kniola.*

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**Carolyn Pampalone Rabbers** - October 02, 2024 at 08:53 PM

NA

“ *Mrs.Knoila was my kindergarten teacher in Baroda school the last year it was open. My son then had her as a teacher. She was awesome and anyone who had her knew it! My prayers and condolences to your family. Nichole (Schlender) Amaya.*

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**Nichole Amaya** - October 02, 2024 at 05:15 PM

RD

“ *Ron Dirkse lit a candle in memory of Sharon K. "Yntema" Kniola*



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**Ron Dirkse** - October 02, 2024 at 05:14 PM

RD

*Sherry and I both came from Zeeland. Then I taught at Lakeshore Middle School from 67 to 74 where Denny was counselor. Nice people.*

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**Ron Dirkse** - October 02, 2024 at 05:17 PM