



Catherine "Kay" Starkey

June 4, 1937 - March 22, 2017

It is with deep sorrow, that we announce the passing of Catherine "Kay" Gsell Starkey, 79 years old, and resident of Chestertown, MD. Kay passed away on March 22, 2017, at Compass Regional Hospice in Centreville, MD, due to complications from pneumonia.

Kay was born on June 4, 1937, in Chestertown, MD, to Catherine "Kitty" Kramer Gsell and William Henry "Henny" Gsell. Kay was a proud graduate of Chestertown High School and Goldey-Beacom College.

Kay drove a school bus for Kent County Schools for a few years, and then owned a Kindergarten. For over 30 years, she was a Social Worker with the State of Maryland's Department of Social Services. During her years as a Social Worker, Kay was a proud and passionate advocate for those that needed assistance in life's journey. After retiring from the State of Maryland, Kay was a Court Commissioner and Licensed Realtor for Champion Realty until her passing. Kay especially enjoyed helping first-time homebuyers.

Kay was a lifelong resident of Chestertown, MD, and so very proud to call Chestertown home. Kay loved all activities that involved family, friends, and community. She was a fixture on the sidelines or audience at any event in which her sons or grandchildren were involved. She especially enjoyed her beautiful home, gardening, cooking, and, most of all, hosting family/friends.

She was a longtime member of the Eastern Star and a lifelong member of Christ United Methodist Church of Chestertown. She was also a proud and active past member of the Kent County Board of Education.

Kay is survived by sons, Gregory K. Starkey and wife Isabel of Stevensville, MD, Gary S. Starkey and wife Lisa of Arnold, MD, and William H. "Hank" Starkey and wife Kim of Centreville, MD; grandchildren, Robert Applefeld, Rachel Starkey, Lauren Starkey, Sarah Starkey, Stephen Starkey, and Bryan Starkey; great-granddaughter, Brislin Moon Applefeld; sisters, Joyce Hahnel and Deborah Carter; niece, Trish Benton; and her beloved dog, Mei Leigh.

A service will be held on April 8, 2017, at Christ United Methodist Church, 401 High Street, Chestertown, MD 21620, at 11 a.m. A Celebration of Life reception will take place at 12:30 p.m. at Chester River Yacht and Country Club, 7738 Quaker Neck Road, Chestertown, MD 21620.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Compass Regional Hospice, 160 Coursevall Drive, Centreville, MD 21617.

Kay lived her life by these three words-- Passion, Strength and Love.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

Christ United Methodist Church
401 High Street
Chestertown, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - April 03, 2017 at 12:31 PM



Kay was a Great Friend, she was always there when I needed a shoulder. She will be so Greatly missed.

Sharon Crew - April 05, 2017 at 05:45 AM



“ *Catherine "Kay" Starkey*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Catherine "Kay" Starkey*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Catherine "Kay" Starkey*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM

 Enid Lum

“ *I always admired you in so many different ways even from a very young age listening to yours and Mom's conversations. You always gave amazing advice and genuinely cared for others. I learned a lot from you over the years from direct conversations, and listening to you chat with others. Thank you so much for being such a good friend to my entire family over the years. We love you and will always be remembered lovingly. God bless.*

Enid Lum - April 08, 2017 at 07:40 AM



“ *Sharon Crew lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey*



Sharon Crew - April 05, 2017 at 05:43 AM

 FI

“ *From Ramsey GMC, Inc purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Catherine "Kay" Starkey.*



From Ramsey GMC, Inc - April 04, 2017 at 12:22 PM



“ 82 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - April 03, 2017 at 12:10 PM

SC

“ *It was a very good day in Cambridge!*



Sharon Clark - April 03, 2017 at 10:23 AM

SC

“ From the time that Kay stood on my doorstep, in the freezing cold with snow in the background, hoping to stay in my home while she worked in Salisbury, rather than having to commute to Chestertown (!), to the last time we met for lunch in Easton, after both of us had retired, our relationship was a special one. We shared so many things, were proud of the same things, worshiped a loving God and lived life as fully as we could. She knew how to love; and for that reason, anyone who knew her loved her.

Her greatest tribute is her children and grandchildren, a marvelous legacy. You are strong, as she was strong. All of you are in my prayers.

Sharon Clark

Sharon Clark - April 03, 2017 at 10:18 AM

LI

“ Luisa's Cucina Italiana lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey



Luisa's Cucina Italiana - March 31, 2017 at 11:11 AM

BE

“ Bonnie And Ronnie Edwards lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey



Bonnie and Ronnie Edwards - March 30, 2017 at 08:28 PM

ML

“ *Melissa Lenzi lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey*



Melissa Lenzi - March 30, 2017 at 08:09 PM

TF

“ *The Hosgood Family lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey*



The Hosgood Family - March 30, 2017 at 12:49 PM

TJ

“ *Tom And Nancy Lee Jewell lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey*



Tom and Nancy Lee Jewell - March 28, 2017 at 04:39 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Catherine "Kay" Starkey.*



March 28, 2017 at 02:20 PM

ZB

“ Zoa Ann & Ken Beasley lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey



Zoa Ann & Ken Beasley - March 28, 2017 at 08:32 AM

CW

“ Centreville Methodist Women sent a virtual gift in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey



Centreville Methodist Women - March 28, 2017 at 07:05 AM

CW

Hank and family: Our prayers and thoughts are with you during the loss of your mother. God will give you the strength to get through this difficult time. God Bless, Centreville Methodist Women

Centreville Methodist Women - March 29, 2017 at 04:27 PM

GP

“ Gene & Lynda Palmatary sent a virtual gift in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey



Gene & Lynda Palmatary - March 28, 2017 at 07:04 AM

LP

Our many thoughts and prayers are with your family at this time. Many blessings are coming your way and God will give you the strength to get through this difficult time. God Bless. Gene and Lynda Palmatary

Lynda Palmatary - March 28, 2017 at 07:06 AM

ML

Keeping the family in my thoughts and prayers

Melissa Lenzi - March 30, 2017 at 08:08 PM

LA

“ *Lisa Adkins lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey*



Lisa Adkins - March 27, 2017 at 06:51 PM

SC

“ *Those we lose live on in our hearts and minds. May your good memories and love remain and live on.*

Sandra Crawford - March 27, 2017 at 02:52 PM

SC

“ *Sandra Crawford lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey*



Sandra Crawford - March 27, 2017 at 02:49 PM

AG

“ *Condolences, to the Starkey family. I was blessed to know Ms. Kay, She always had a smile and a kind word when I was around her. God bless the Starkey men, as I know you and your families and extended family and friends are going through this most difficult time.*

Arthur Godfrey - March 27, 2017 at 01:09 PM

NH

“ *Nancy Hubbard lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey*



Nancy Hubbard - March 27, 2017 at 11:30 AM

DD

“ *Debbie Dean lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey*



Debbie Dean - March 27, 2017 at 10:01 AM



“ *Greg Gary and Hank and the rest of the family, my deepest sympathies. I have such fond memories of her. Peace be with you*

Nancy Coleman - March 27, 2017 at 01:57 AM

WA

“ Wendy Parsons Abbott lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey



Wendy Parsons Abbott - March 26, 2017 at 01:11 PM

BE

“ Bonnie & Ronnie Edwards lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey



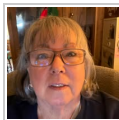
Bonnie & Ronnie Edwards - March 26, 2017 at 01:05 PM



“ Kim Conley lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey



Kim Conley - March 26, 2017 at 12:47 PM



So many great memories of "Miss" Kay! Strong Tough and Loving. She is one of the reasons I chose the career I have. Love and prayers to a great lady's family. Heaven has gained a wonderful angel.

Kim Conley - March 26, 2017 at 12:49 PM

DK

“ Donna Kaufman lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey



Donna Kaufman - March 26, 2017 at 08:11 AM

PC

“ Patrick Cronshaw lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey



Patrick Cronshaw - March 26, 2017 at 06:04 AM

DS

“ Dave And Donell Smith lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey



Dave and Donell Smith - March 25, 2017 at 08:55 PM

GC

“ Guy & Susie Comegys lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey



Guy & Susie Comegys - March 25, 2017 at 06:41 PM

ML

“ *Maxine Larrimore lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey*



Maxine Larrimore - March 25, 2017 at 12:37 PM

EB

“ *Eileen & Bill Brice lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey*



Eileen & Bill Brice - March 25, 2017 at 12:06 PM

EI

Greg, Gary, and Hank, Bill and I offer our condolences to you all and your families. So many good memories of our family get together s over the years. We will keep all of you in our prayers.

Eileen - March 25, 2017 at 12:08 PM

CS

“ *Great woman, true leader and wonderful soul who assisted so many families and students! RIP as your crown awaits your arrival.*
Charles & Sharon Shahan



Charles Shahan - March 25, 2017 at 11:11 AM

JL

“ Kay was one of four Board of Education members that hired me in 1985 to be their superintendent. I appreciate all that she did for me, my family, and the public school students of Kent County. She was truly a caring public servant. My prayers go out to all members of her family.
Sincerely, Jim Lupis

Jim Lupis - March 25, 2017 at 09:26 AM

JB

“ Kay will be missed greatly!!!!



Joyce Benton - March 24, 2017 at 09:57 PM



“ Cindy King lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey



Cindy King - March 24, 2017 at 08:51 PM

SM

“ Susan Martinez lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey



Susan Martinez - March 24, 2017 at 02:30 PM

DE

“ Donna Hubbard Edwards lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey



Donna Hubbard Edwards - March 24, 2017 at 01:08 PM

JL

“ Joyce And Lee lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey



Joyce and Lee - March 24, 2017 at 10:10 AM

EL

“ Ellen lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey



Ellen - March 24, 2017 at 10:08 AM

DL

“ Dottie Laplaca lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey



Dottie Laplaca - March 24, 2017 at 09:45 AM

DL

Hank, Prayers to you and your family , your mother was one fine lady and I always enjoyed seeing her she always took the time to talk and speak. Your mother was a wonderful person and heaven has one of the best angels, may she R.I.P.

Dottie Laplaca - March 24, 2017 at 09:54 AM

ME

“ *Mel lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey*



Mel - March 24, 2017 at 08:35 AM

SD

“ *Sheila Blyman Dlugoborski lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey*



Sheila Blyman Dlugoborski - March 24, 2017 at 07:35 AM

TL

“ *Tammy & Matt Larrimore lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey*



Tammy & Matt Larrimore - March 24, 2017 at 03:57 AM

TT

“ *Trish And Eddie Taylor lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey*



Trish and Eddie Taylor - March 23, 2017 at 10:03 PM

TT

Our condolences to Hank, Gary and Greg.

Trish and Eddie Taylor - March 23, 2017 at 10:04 PM

RW

“ *Roger And Shirley Williams lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey*



Roger and Shirley Williams - March 23, 2017 at 07:34 PM

GC

“ *Gail Claggett lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey*



Gail Claggett - March 23, 2017 at 07:31 PM

JT

“ *Judy, Shawn And Lance Thompson lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey*



Judy, Shawn and Lance Thompson - March 23, 2017 at 07:12 PM

GC

“ *George And Peggy Comegys lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey*



George and Peggy Comegys - March 23, 2017 at 06:16 PM

JD

“ *I will always remember how great she was when she was a Court Commissioner, fair but stern. Rip Comm. Starkey!*

John Dolgos - March 23, 2017 at 05:15 PM

JB

“ *Greg, Gary and Hank, and families
We have known your Mother in so many different capacities during the years, from driving a school bus to being a court commissioner (I think that was her title) and most of all just being herself as a wonderful lady. Please know that you all are in our thoughts and prayers.*



Joyce & Wayne Bradley

Joyce Bradley - March 23, 2017 at 03:50 PM

MU

“ *Mary Ellen Calloway Unruh lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey*



Mary Ellen Calloway Unruh - March 23, 2017 at 01:09 PM

GW

“ *Greg, Hank, Gary and Families:
Sending prayers to all of you and your Families through such a loss for your families.
Hold on to all the memories and keep her legacy alive. Your Mom loved you all so much.
Will be thinking of you through this difficult time.*

George and Candy Wilson - March 23, 2017 at 12:16 PM

TJ

“ *Tom And Nancy Lee Jewell lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Kay" Starkey*



Tom and Nancy Lee Jewell - March 23, 2017 at 11:50 AM

DP

Well guys and families of Mrs.K very sorry to hear of her passing and just think of the great memories and that she is now pain free.

Daniel Pletzer - March 23, 2017 at 01:20 PM

GC

To the Starkey family, we are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. George and Peggy Comegys

George and Peggy Comegys - March 23, 2017 at 06:15 PM