



Kathryn Rackham

July 17, 1943 - December 31, 2024

Kathryn (Kathy) Schmalz Rackham passed away Tuesday, December 31, 2024 in Moses Lake after a long battle with Alzheimer's/Dementia.

Kathy was born July 17, 1943 in Ogden, Utah to William Moyes Schmalz and Karma Chadwick. She was born the middle child of three. She lived in Salt Lake City and Seattle before moving to a farm north of Warden in 1952. In 1961 she graduated as the Valedictorian of Warden High School and attended Central Washington State College in Ellensburg receiving a degree in Education and French in 1965. She taught English and French at Tyee High School prior to spending a summer abroad in France.

On July 14, 1967 Kathy married James Kendall Rackham in the Idaho Falls LDS Temple. After living a few years in Seattle, they moved to Moses Lake in 1975. Originally a stay-at-home mother, she later taught in the English Skills lab at Big Bend Community College. She then found her passion teaching in the Education Program at the Columbia Basin Job Corps Center and retired in 2009.

Music was a big part of Kathy's life. She was a talented pianist who started playing at an early age. She was gifted with perfect pitch and used to stand with her back to the piano and accurately name each note her mother would play. Sharing her love of music, she taught piano lessons, played with The Keynotes (a local dance band), accompanied countless BBCC musicals, Missoula Children's Theater performances and various music performances for her church community.

A lifelong member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, mostly in the Second Ward; Kathy held many callings over the years including Relief Society President, music director, primary pianist, teacher and Scout leader. Jim and Kathy served in the Columbia River Temple for 10 years together and both tirelessly supported the local scouting program. Her enthusiasm and positive attitudes touched the lives of all who knew her.

A devoted mother, Kathy was immensely proud of her children, and a spirited cheerleader for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She is survived by her husband, Jim, and six children, Julie (Wade) Galbreath, Lynette Rackham, John (Sarah) Rackham all of Moses Lake, Laura (Jerry) Moncada of Flowery Branch, GA, Michael (Melissa) Rackham of Spokane, and Kevin (Allyson) Rackham of Lethbridge, AB, Canada, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her brother Charles Schmalz of North Ogden, UT. She was predeceased in death by her parents and her sister Elizabeth Landes.

A viewing will be held Friday, January 17th from 5:30-7:30 pm at Kayser's Chapel of Memories 831 S. Pioneer Way. Services will be held Saturday, January 18th at 12:00 pm at the Grape Drive LDS Chapel 925 N. Grape Drive. Viewing will be held at 11 a.m. prior to services. Graveside services will follow at Guarding Angels Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association. The family would like to extend their heartfelt love and gratitude to all her caregivers over the years and at the end to the staff at Lakeridge Care Center.

Cemetery Details

Guarding Angels Cemetery

2595 Road L N.E.
Moses Lake, WA 98837
(509) 765-7848

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 17. 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM (PT)

Kayser's Chapel of Memories
831 S. Pioneer Way
Moses Lake, WA

Visitation

JAN 18. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Grape Drive Chapel
925 N. Grape Dr.
Moses Lake, WA

Service

JAN 18. 12:00 PM (PT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Grape Drive Chapel
925 N. Grape Dr.
Moses Lake, WA

Tribute Wall

PS

“ So sorry to hear of Kathy passing. She was a wonderful person and great mother. She raised wonderful children.

Patricia Simmons - January 18, 2025 at 01:25 PM

BG

“ Kathy worked with me and other tutors in the English Skills Lab at BBCC. She is remembered with great affection for her help with students. My sympathy to her family.

Barbara Guiland - January 16, 2025 at 12:49 PM

RN

“ I am grateful to Kathy for her love of music and the time she spent teaching me piano in my youth. I never developed near as much talent in music as she did; Kathy was an amazing pianist with infectious passion and optimism. She exuded confidence in every task, every skill, every calling she took on, and I appreciate that she shared her talents generously. My heart goes out to her children and family members, but I am certain Kathy will be received well by family and friends who preceded her into heaven. She will surely shine brightly there.

Richelle Neal - January 09, 2025 at 02:32 PM

LI

I just found out Kathy passed. It's been 27 yrs since we last saw one another. She & Jim were good neighbors when I had 2 littles. They were lifesavers to me at that time (late 70s.) I've thought of her often, such a talent & cherished friend.

Lisa - July 19, 2025 at 07:29 PM