



Esther N. VonHatten

August 13, 1939 - July 9, 2023

Esther N. VonHatten, age 83 of Highland, IL, died Sunday, July 9, 2023.

She was born on Sunday, August 13, 1939, in Breese, IL, the daughter of Dennis and Sophia (nee Popeck) Akers.

On Saturday, June 8, 1968, she married James ("Jim") A. VonHatten at St. Rose Catholic Church, St. Rose, IL, who passed away on Friday, March 19, 2004.

She was a member of Saint Paul Catholic Church, Highland, IL.

Esther was born in Breese, IL, grew up in Beckemeyer, IL, and graduated from Breese Community High School in 1957. Upon marrying Jim, they moved to Highland, IL and she resided there until her passing. She attended Belleville Area College and Kaskaskia College. She taught for a year at McKendree College at the start of the Paralegal skills program. She was a paralegal secretary for Henry Bergmann in Breese for a number of years and then for James Drazen in Troy until retiring in 2002. She enjoyed playing board games with family and friends. With her circle of great friends, she would attend music concerts in the area. She loved to read, especially autobiographies, Smithsonian and National Geographic magazines. One of her favorite authors was James Patterson. Time with family and friends was very important to her. She enjoyed making tied fleece blankets (made 50+ blankets) for family and friends. Esther loved nature and had many collectibles of her favorite animal, the sloth. She also cherished traveling with her family. She was very proud of her three grandchildren and their achievements. Esther was well-known for her personal hand-written notes which she gave freely and often to remind people how much she loved and cared for them. She made many people laugh and feel extra special. She will be deeply missed.

Survivors include:

Daughter - Samantha (James) Siedhoff, Highland, IL

Daughter - Andrea (Steven) Norton, Marseilles, IL

Grandchild - Carson Siedhoff, Riverview, FL
Grandchild - Sophia Siedhoff, Highland, IL
Grandchild - Andrew "Drew" Norton, Marseilles, IL
Brother - Dennis P. "Patrick" (Sheila) Akers, Ashland, MO
Niece - Janice (Ernie) Brown, Beckemeyer, IL
Nephew - Gerald Skiver, Meridian, ID
Niece - Susan (Mark) Miko, St. Louis, MO
Sister-In-Law - Teresa (Dave) Schaaf, Breese, IL
Niece - Jennifer Akers, Breese, IL
Niece - Sharon (Brad) Loddeke, Breese, IL
Cousin-in-Law - Father John Ozella, Pueblo, CO
Cousin-in-Law - Jeanne (Wayne) Sackett, Highland, IL
Many great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and all family fur babies

She was preceded in death by:

Father - Dennis Akers
Mother - Sophia Akers, nee Popeck
Mother-In-Law - Josephine "Josie" VonHatten
Husband - James "Jim" VonHatten
Brother - Allan Akers
Sister - Lorraine Bruggemann
Brother-In-Law - Joseph "Joe" Bruggemann
Niece-In-Law - Mary Ann Skiver
Aunt-In-Law - Henrietta "Yettie" Ozella
Uncle-In-Law - John Ozella

Arrangements are being handled by Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Private Graveside Service, Friday, July 28, 2023, at Saint Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Highland, IL, with Fr. John Ozella, officiating.

Interment will be at Saint Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Highland, IL.

Memorial contributions may be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Esther N. VonHatten.

July 27, 2023 at 05:26 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Esther N. VonHatten.



July 27, 2023 at 05:26 PM

GH

“ Esther was a shining light in this world who never gave herself enough credit! She dropped off meals to family and little gifts to the kids. Esther always sent a card and gift to the little ones.
I can truly say she was one of my favorite people! Fly high Esther, we love and will always miss you.

Gail Holthaus - July 12, 2023 at 09:55 PM

SB

“ Sami and Annie, there are no words to describe the shock and hurt from the tragic death of your wonderful mother. She was one of the kindest, sweetest people I have ever known. Heaven has gained an angel and she and Jim are together again. I'm sure they both have gigantic grins on their face.

Esther and the Akers family have been a part of my life for as long as I can remember and her death hurts beyond description. I pray for the whole family's comfort and peace during this most difficult time.

Steve Bromley - July 12, 2023 at 08:27 PM

MD

“ Sami and Annie, I was beyond sad to hear the news. Esther was simply the best! I have so many fond memories growing up on VFW Road with Essie and Jim as our neighbors and the two of you as my everyday friends! They were certainly “Couple Goals”. She will be so missed here on earth, but heaven is surely rejoicing! 😊

Michelle Dammerich - July 11, 2023 at 07:43 PM

JK

“ So many good memories for such a special lady. It was an honor to work with Esther at Henry's office. I know how much she will be missed...

Jan Kalmer - July 11, 2023 at 03:52 PM

PN

“ Sammi, to you and your family, we are so sorry for your loss. Esther was always such a bright light. May she rest in peace and may you be comforted with all the beautiful memories your family shared.

Patricia Noe - July 11, 2023 at 03:01 PM

TV

“ I have many fond memories of the time spent with Esther at McKendree, and the friendship we shared. Later, I always enjoyed our chats when we would meet while shopping in Highland. Esther was a wonderful friend. My sympathy to each of you, Thelma Vernatti

Thelma Vernatti - July 11, 2023 at 03:01 PM

AI

“ Esther was always a joy to be around. I really enjoyed talking with her. She was very proud of her kids.
My sympathy goes out to her great family. May she rest in peace with her husband.
Irene Armbruster

Armbruster Irene - July 11, 2023 at 02:38 PM