



Sondra Kay Nichols

April 29, 1943 - February 28, 2025

Sondra “Kay” Nichols passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Friday, February 28, 2025, in Jacksonville. Kay was born on April 29, 1943, in Godfrey, IL, the sixth and last surviving child of Samuel R. and Beatrice G. Camerer. She married Bill (Nick) Nichols at the Eldred Baptist Church on January 6, 1962.

A lifelong resident of Central Illinois, Kay was a 1961 graduate of Carrollton High School, where she was a cheerleader and played the cornet in the band. After graduation, she attended Gem City Business School. Over the years, Kay worked in administrative and business positions, including at Franklin Life Insurance Company, the State of Illinois, Roodhouse National Bank, Weight Watchers, Farmers State Bank, and Lenz Distributing.

Kay became a Christian at a young age at Eldred Baptist Church and was a current member of the First Baptist Church in Jacksonville. She had a strong faith and served her community by volunteering in various roles, including Sunday School teacher, Bible School co-director, Girl Scout helper, Scott County Home Extension member, and as a county fair judge in culinary foods for both Scott and Morgan Counties. She also enjoyed helping with the Farmers State Bank Tiger Troop, with making gingerbread houses being a highlight each year.

Kay loved working with fresh and artificial flowers, creating beautiful

arrangements for every season. She cherished spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who brought her endless joy. Affectionately nicknamed 'Nannie' by them, she was a constant, enthusiastic presence at their activities, always there to cheer them on, rain or shine. During visits, Nannie always had a job to do—whether altering or hemming dresses, costumes, curtains, or school uniforms. In her spare time, she enjoyed going to the movies with a bucket of popcorn and a Diet Coke—an activity she shared with her grandchildren as often as possible, creating lasting memories together.

Holidays held a special place in Kay's heart—she loved decorating for fall, painting pumpkins with the grandchildren, and carefully arranging her cherished Christmas houses and decorations to make sure everything was 'just right.' Nannie especially loved filling Christmas stockings and Easter baskets, always putting great thought into finding the perfect gift for each person. She found great joy in celebrating Christmas with family and friends, making those gatherings some of the most meaningful moments of the year.

Survivors include her loving husband of 63 years, Bill (Nick) Nichols of Jacksonville; two daughters, Crystal (John) Killday of Jefferson City, MO, and Kim (Tom) Lenz of Springfield, IL; three granddaughters, Courtney (Blaine) Toebben, Morgan Lenz, and Katie Lenz; two grandsons, Carson Killday and Drew Lenz; two great-grandchildren, Kamden and Parker Kate; three sisters-in-law, Melody Camerer of Scottville, Elizabeth (Liz) Camerer of Jacksonville, and Karen (Bob) Nichols of White Hall; numerous nieces and nephews; and lifelong friends Betty, Ann, and Theresa. Her best friends, known as "the gang," included Connie Sue Segobiano of Alton; Judy Reichmann and Karen Parker of Carrollton; Bobbie Neil of Barnett, MO; Linda Reif of Jacksonville; Carol Piper of Jacksonville; and Linda McGuire (deceased).

Kay was preceded in death by her parents; four sisters, Betty (Art), Janet (Dutch), Phyllis (Tudy), and Linda (Butch); and two brothers, Charles (Sonny)

and Bob.

A funeral service will be held 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at the First Baptist Church in Jacksonville. A visitation will be held 10:00 a.m. until time of services at the church. Daws Family Funeral Home in Jacksonville is assisting the family. Memorials are suggested to the Scott County 4-H and Jr. Fair or the First Baptist Church.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 5. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church Jacksonville
1701 Mound Rd.
Jacksonville, IL 62650

Service

MAR 5. 1:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church Jacksonville
1701 Mound Rd.
Jacksonville, IL 62650

Tribute Wall



“ Mackey Daws Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Sondra Kay Nichols



Daws Funeral Homes - March 04, 2025 at 01:10 PM

RR

“ Our sympathy to the family. Know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. We always enjoyed visiting with Kay, her beautiful smile and vibrant personality which I remember just like the picture posted.

Rick and Janet Roberts

Ricj/Janet Roberts - March 05, 2025 at 12:29 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Sondra Kay Nichols.



March 04, 2025 at 01:18 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Sondra Kay Nichols.

March 04, 2025 at 01:18 PM

SF

“ *Sonnys Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Sondra Kay Nichols.*



Sonnys Family - March 04, 2025 at 08:48 AM

RL

“ *Our hearts go out to Bill and family. Kay went through so much. May your memories give you peace and comfort.
Ron and Marilyn (Coffee Group).*

Ronald & Marilyn Lawless - March 04, 2025 at 06:26 AM

NA

“ *Crystal and John I am so very sorry for your loss. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers.
Nancy Ator*

Nancy Ator - March 03, 2025 at 11:53 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Sondra Kay Nichols.*



March 03, 2025 at 04:27 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Sondra Kay Nichols.*

March 03, 2025 at 04:27 PM

JM

“ Jim and Marcella lit a candle in memory of Sondra Nichols



Jim and Marcella - March 03, 2025 at 03:42 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Sondra Kay Nichols.



March 03, 2025 at 02:45 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Sondra Kay Nichols.

March 03, 2025 at 02:45 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sondra Kay Nichols.



March 03, 2025 at 01:46 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Sondra Kay Nichols.

March 03, 2025 at 01:46 PM



“ Your Ameren Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Sondra Kay Nichols.



Your Ameren Family - March 03, 2025 at 11:09 AM



“ Tom and Linda Sullivan purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Sondra Kay Nichols.



Tom and Linda Sullivan - March 03, 2025 at 10:55 AM



“ Work staff purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Sondra Kay Nichols.



Work staff - March 03, 2025 at 10:54 AM

WS

“ Work staff planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sondra Kay Nichols.

Work staff - March 03, 2025 at 10:54 AM

TS

“ We will miss your beautiful smile and kind heart. I have so many great memories of you and your entire family. I will NEVER forget you.

My Mom and Dad are up in heaven and will be there to welcome you with open arms.

Love you.

Tom And Linda Sullivan



THOMAS LEE SULLIVAN - March 03, 2025 at 10:47 AM

VM

“ So sorry for your loss. She was truly a wonderful person. I got to know her through my cousin Betty. Which made her even more special. I loved her smile and the way she could make you smile. RIP Kay. Velma Mosley



Velma M Mosley - March 03, 2025 at 10:33 AM

CW

“ carolyn McKinley white lit a candle in memory of Sondra Nichols



carolyn McKinley white - March 02, 2025 at 07:36 PM