



## Wendy Elizabeth Geertz

August 29, 2013

Wendy Elizabeth Geertz, age 65, died August 29, 2013, at Fairview Southdale Hospital in Edina, Minnesota. She was born June 28, 1948, in Evanston, Illinois, to William and Lois Geertz and raised in Des Plaines, Illinois, near Chicago. She married Jon Derflinger on June 29, 2004, in Cedar Rapids and lived for many years in Central City, Iowa.

She was a graduate of Maine West High School, Des Plaines, Illinois, and received her B.A. degree from Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa.

After receiving her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Iowa, Wendy practiced law with the Legal Services Corporation of Iowa in Des Moines, Council Bluffs, and Fort Dodge, and with the Mears Law Office in Iowa City. She then taught paralegal studies at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids for more than 20 years until her retirement in 2008.

Wendy is survived by her brother, John (Nancy) Geertz-Larson, of Bloomington, Minnesota; her sister, Kathryn (Robert) Schopp, of Marshfield, Wisconsin; her sister-in-law, Mary Jungerman of Boulder, Colorado; her stepson, Joseph Derflinger, of Cedar Rapids, and his 2 children, Jon Jason and Abigail; 2 nieces, Lois Geertz of Eugene, Oregon, and Clara Geertz of Santa Fe, New Mexico; 3 nephews, Michael Grider (Jennifer Bohlke) of

Minneapolis, Minnesota; William Geertz-Larson of Bloomington, Minnesota; and Peter Geertz-Larson of Tacoma, Washington; an aunt, Esther Zeiss of Lombard, Illinois; an uncle, Donald (Mary) Ernst of Henry, Illinois; and 19 cousins.

She was preceded in death by her husband and parents, and by her brother, Richard Geertz.

Services are to be held at Heritage of Edina—Rembrandt residence, 3434 Heritage Drive, Edina, Minnesota, on Sunday, September 8, at 1:30 p.m., with the Reverend Catherine Crooks of Plymouth Congregational Church of Minneapolis officiating; and at the United Church of Christ, 38 North Fifth Street, Central City, Iowa, on Saturday, October 5, at 2:00 p.m., with the Reverend Vicki Engelmann officiating. Interment will be at Jordan's Grove Cemetery, near Central City, following the October 5 service.

Memorials may be sent to First Congregational Church, 766 Graceland Ave., Des Plaines, IL 60016; Central City United Church of Christ, P.O. Box 238, Central City, IA 52214; or Plymouth Congregational Church, 1900 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55403.

Arrangements are by Washburn-McReavy, Edina, Minnesota, (952) 920-3996. Please post your Wendy stories at <http://www.washburn-mcreavy.com/obituaries/Wendy-Geertz/> or on Facebook so that excerpts may be read at her memorial services.

# Tribute Wall

KP

“ It has been many years since I graduated from the paralegal program in 1991. I served as a paralegal in several places, including Des Moines until 2002 and then pursued different career paths, even being a teacher myself. I am now considering going back to being a paralegal and the first name that came to my mind as someone who was a phenomenal instructor, adviser, reference, friend and leader was Wendy Geertz. I never forgot her and the program at Kirkwood was outstanding. I remember Wendy's smile and laugh, her availability and approachability, her willingness to help anyone. I even still have a letter of recommendation she wrote for me. When I just googled her name I was very sorry to hear that she had passed. Had I returned to the area, I certainly would have stopped in to see her. Please know that she was someone a student would remember even 28 years later.

*Karen (Armentrout) Potter*

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**Karen Potter** - May 28, 2019 at 11:02 AM

MJ

“ Wendy liked to share stories and I remember one in particular that not only made me smile and giggle but forever changed the way I look at Peeps (the bright colored holiday marshmallow treats shaped as bunnies and birds and other assorted forms).

*It's been a while since the story was relayed so you may need a little imagination to fill in the details. Apparently Wendy and her coworkers had an ongoing prank that passed back and forth between them which involved large number of Peeps. The unsuspecting target would be inundated with Peeps in their offices, drawers, lockers, purses.... you name it. Each time, the numbers of Peeps increased and they became increasingly clever with their placements of the cute little marshmallows.*

*I will forever think of Wendy when I see a Peep. :)*

*We are blessed to have her as part of our family.  
Mary Johnson - the Loufek family*

*I'm sorry we are unable to attend the service this Saturday.*

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**Mary Johnson** - October 04, 2013 at 02:34 PM

KS

“ I had the privilege of working with Wendy for ten years as her Dean at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Wendy was the Professor Coordinator of Paralegal Studies. She was a very dedicated faculty member who truly cared about her students' success. Wendy also shared her expertise with the college and communities we serve by working on many college committees, especially those where her legal training would be helpful. Wendy had a gift that is critical to any organization's success: she had the ability to think clearly about possible unintended consequences before action was taken. Our college, our Department of Social Sciences/Career Options, the Paralegal Program, her students and I all benefited from this gift. Wendy demonstrated great personal courage in facing her own brush with cancer and in the tragedy of losing Jon. She had a self-deprecating joking manner that made me laugh, another gift. I thought of her as a colleague and friend, and miss her. My husband Frank and I hope that happy memories will bring all who mourn Wendy a measure of peace and eventually, a smile, in the days and months to come.

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**Kathleen Van Steenhuyse** - October 02, 2013 at 01:01 PM

JT

“ Wendy enjoyed teaching and made people smile. She was a wonderful person and colleague.  
*Jack Terndrup*

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**Jack Terndrup** - September 25, 2013 at 11:52 AM

CJ

“ I have wonderful memories of my high school years, to a great extent because of Wendy and the experiences we shared and the friends we hung around with. We lost touch in the following years, but she always held a special part of my heart and will always be the girl to which all others were compared for me. How wonderful we have the assurance that she is in heaven and in true "reunion" with so many she loved.

*Cliff Johnson, formally from Des Plaines, IL*

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**Cliff Johnson** - September 18, 2013 at 12:41 PM

MT

“ Wendy always brought a fresh perspective to any discussion, and was a delight to spend time with. Her smile and her laughter came easily. She was a free spirit, now freed to be reunited with her true love, Jon. My prayers are with all who loved Wendy.

*Mary C. Taylor, former resident of Central City*

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**Mary C. Taylor** - September 09, 2013 at 04:34 PM

RP

“ Wendy was one of my instructors/advisors at Kirkwood Community College in the paralegal program. I always liked and respected her. She made the most out of her classes and liked to add a little humor to lighten the load. I will always remember her and respect her. I was sad to hear of her passing. God bless her family and friends during this difficult time.

*Rhonda Purdy*

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**Rhonda Purdy** - September 09, 2013 at 03:55 PM

RS

“ Wendy and I went to high school together and were members of the same church - which meant spending time together in choir and in the youth group. Wendy was all those things one would want in a friend - she was smart, witty, fun, genuine, caring and an all around good person. It makes me sad to know that she will not be a part of future gatherings of our high school group.

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**Robin Swain** - September 06, 2013 at 04:20 PM

MN

“ Wendy's smile and laughter! I love to think about that! She was a wonderful colleague. Melanie Nollsch

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**Melanie Nollsch** - September 05, 2013 at 09:33 PM

CD

“ Because my family lived very near Wendy's family in Des Plaines, our lives intertwined early on. So her parents and family were like my second family. Besides going on vacations with them, I spent as much time at their home as Wendy spent at mine (if not more). I continually learned so much from her as the years went on. One person should not have to shoulder losing both parents so early in her life. Then to lose a husband and brother seems unfair. I was so glad when Wendy met and eventually married Jon. They were a very special couple. I only wish they could have had even more years together. We lost a good friend too soon. She is smiling in heaven now back with her family who went before her. Carolyn Relph DeVries

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**Carolyn DeVries** - September 05, 2013 at 08:37 PM

GN

“ Wendy was a soul sister in our teen-age years in Des Plaines. Quick-witted, but kind, she was a joy to be around. The world has lost a lovely human being.

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**Gretchen Nicholoff** - September 05, 2013 at 07:19 PM

GY

“ I have fond memories of Wendy and always enjoyed my visits with her. I learned more about searching the law books from an expert when she taught her students in the library. Genny Yarne

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**Genny Yarne** - September 03, 2013 at 02:29 PM

MP

“ In all of the years with Wendy as my colleague, I always saw a complete professional at work, and a person enjoyable to talk with and work with.

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**mark pelzer** - September 03, 2013 at 12:27 PM

CT

What I remember most about Wendy was that she was a ray of sunshine, laughing readily with her friends, making everyone feel welcome and important. She was a rare gift.

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**Christine Gates Trickey** - September 05, 2013 at 08:45 PM