



Judith "Judy" A. Hanson

January 14, 1947 - March 25, 2026

Judith (Judy) Arlene Bernice (Bess) Hanson, age 79, passed away peacefully on March 25, 2026, in Danforth, Illinois, after a long and courageous battle with Huntington's Disease. Throughout her journey, she remained a woman of quiet strength, deep kindness, and unwavering love for her family, friends, and community.

Born on January 14, 1947, in Kankakee, Illinois, Judy grew up surrounded by the values of family, community, and resilience. These guiding principles shaped her character and influenced the way she approached life.

On September 4, 1965, Judy married Larry Hanson in Clifton, Illinois, beginning a partnership that spanned sixty years. Their union was marked by devotion, humor, and steadfast companionship. Together, they cultivated a loving home that radiated warmth and loyalty, offering a gentle presence that made everyone feel welcome.

As a dedicated farm wife, Judy was a steady and reliable force behind the scenes. She diligently journaled the family's daily farming activities, ensuring their story was preserved. Judy prepared meals to sustain everyone through long days in the fields, and accompanied Larry in the tractor whenever she could, providing comfort and encouragement. Her unwavering support made the hard work of farming feel a little lighter, and her quiet dedication helped maintain the rhythm of farm life for her family.

Judy's greatest joy was her family. She is survived by her children: Dawn Haigh (Russell) from Chebanse, Donna Hanson-Spencer (Ken) from Livonia, MI, Doug Hanson (Lisa) from Danforth, IL, Debbie Cyr (Tim) from Chebanse, IL.

She was a proud grandmother to twelve grandchildren: Larry Haigh, Heidi Justice (Ricki), Miranda Spencer (Dylan), Romney Spencer, Rhianna Cyr, Sheridan Spencer, Maddie Buckley (Joe), Kylie Cyr, Isabella Hanson; and a loving great-grandmother to three great-grandchildren: William, Catherine, Carter Justice.

Judy is also survived by her siblings: Robert Bess (Denise), Helen Bess, Kathryn Maisonneuve, Kathleen Lyons, Verna Lee Lehning, Chuck Bess (Tara); her sister-in-law Dee Bess; and her brother-in-law Richard McHugh and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father Vernon Bess (Elaine), her mother Opal "Maxine" Watson (Chester), her siblings Ina Mae Lindgren (Kenneth), Vernon Lee Bess, Bonnie McHugh, and one great-grandchild, Jake Justice.

Judy lived a life rich with simple joys and heartfelt passions. She loved sewing, puzzles, snowmobiling, and camping, and she never missed a chance to enjoy a good Hallmark movie or

cheer on her beloved Chicago Cubs. But above all, she was best known for being a card shark. With her famous poker face and quiet confidence, she could outplay nearly anyone — especially in her favorite game, Skip-Bo, where she won more often than not.

Judy will be remembered for her gentle spirit, her compassion, and her ability to make others feel seen and valued. Even as Huntington's disease became part of her story, it never dimmed the love she gave or the light she carried.

A gathering of family and friends will be held to honor Judy's life. Visitation will be from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 29, 2026 at the Knapp Funeral Home in Clifton. Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, March 30, 2026 at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Clifton with Fr. Doug Hauber officiating. Burial will follow in the Clifton Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to organizations supporting Huntington's Disease research and patient care, in hopes of bringing future families closer to the breakthroughs Judy deserved.

Please share a memory of Judy at www.knappfuneralhomes.com.