

Kathleen Keder-Pitcavage Memorial Scholarship

Kathleen Keder Pitcavage died suddenly on January 15, 2013 at the age of 60 at home in the company of her husband, Michael. Her husband and her children Jamie and Annie along with their families have established the **KATHLEEN KEDER PITCAVAGE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** in her honor. Along with their funding and with donations from family and friends and the staff of the Wyoming Area School District they will be awarding a yearly scholarship in Kathy's honor.



Born on July 1, 1952 in West Pittston, Kathy was a daughter of Jule (Starolis) Keder of West Pittston, and the late Frank Keder.

Kathy spent her entire educational life from early childhood to graduation as part of the Wyoming Area School District. She graduated from Wyoming Area in 1970, where she served as the class treasurer. She continued her academic career by attending Bloomsburg State College, majoring in education. A studious learner, Kathy achieved a master's degree in the education field.

Putting her degrees into effect, Kathy devoted her professional career to elementary children, as well as her alma mater. She was employed in the Wyoming Area School District for more than 30 years, serving a majority of the time as a sixth-grade teacher, first at Montgomery Avenue and most recently at Tenth Street Elementary.

Upon graduation from Bloomsburg in 1974, Kathy Keder was united in matrimony with her high school sweetheart, Michael Pitcavage, of West Wyoming. The newlywed couple fulfilled a dream of owning their own business when they opened Pitcavage's Meat Market in 1975, a local butcher shop that thrived in the West Wyoming community until its closure in 1991. Kathy pulled double-duty, teaching and working nights and weekends.

Kathy did not limit herself to helping children in the classroom. Her generous nature is what many remembered most about her. Kathy was always hosting family in the couple's Swoyersville home for various holidays and events. She spent numerous Saturdays cleaning the church of the former Our Lady of Sorrows, now St. Monica's

Parish in West Wyoming, and teaching CCD classes to the middle school students.

Kathy got the greatest satisfaction from being with the ones she loved most dearly, her family and friends. The couple loved taking family vacations with their two children, Annie and Jamie. She enjoyed spending Sundays in the summer at her in-laws cottage in Tunkhannock along the Susquehanna River. Relaxing at the shore with her childhood girlfriends also gave her great pleasure. Recently Kathy's purpose in life became her devotion to her two grandchildren, Chase Zimmerman, of Lancaster, and Ella Smith, of California. These two additions to her life brought her overwhelming joy; she loved being Grammy.

Kathy's spirit and energy cannot be completely captured in words. She lived life from the heart, going above and beyond with everyone she encountered. Her SMILE and laugh were infectious, putting all of those in her company in the best of moods. Her departure from this world leaves emptiness in all those who knew her; however, her memory fills the spirit with love and jubilation.

Kathy was preceded in death by her father, Frank Keder. She is survived by her loyal adoring husband of 38 years, Mike; their two devoted children, Jamie Pitcavage, a teacher in California and Annie Zimmerman, an Occupational Therapist in a school district in Lancaster, along with her husband, Jon; her loving mother, Jule (Starolis) Keder; her siblings, Frank Keder and Barbara Pumplun; and of course her cherished grandchildren, Chase Zimmerman and Ella Smith. You are missed, Kathy. You left us too soon, but your memory will live on in our hearts.

This \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a graduating Wyoming Area senior majoring in education at a 2 year or 4 year college or university. However, preference will be given to elementary education majors but consideration will be given to any major in education or any career that involves working with children which would be considered an educational setting which would involve some type of teaching. Some examples are therapists, speech pathology, child social work, librarian, child psychology, etc.

If there is more than one recipient, the award will be divided equally among the recipients. A selection committee will make the final decision on this award. An interview may be part of the selection process.

The required essay of at least 500 words should address the following questions: How and when did your interest in teaching begin? What influenced it? Include in your essay why you feel you should be awarded this particular scholarship.

Kathy's spirit is captured on one of her favorite stories:



The Dragonfly

Once, in a little pond, in the muddy water under the lily pads, there lived a little water beetle in a community of water beetles. They lived a simple and comfortable life in the pond with few disturbances and interruptions. Once in a while, sadness would come to the community when one of their fellow beetles would climb the stem of a lily pad and would never be seen again. They knew when this happened; their friend was dead, gone forever. Then, one day, one little water beetle felt an irresistible urge to climb up that stem. However, he was determined that he would not leave forever. He would come back and tell his friends what he had found at the top. When he reached the top and climbed out of the water onto the surface of the lily pad, he was so tired, and the sun felt so warm, that he decided he must take a nap. As he slept, his body changed and when he woke up, he had turned into a beautiful blue-tailed dragonfly with broad wings and a slender body designed for flying. So, fly he did! And, as he soared he saw the beauty of a whole new world and a far superior way of life to what he had never known existed. Then he remembered his beetle friends and how they were thinking by now he was dead. He wanted to go back to tell them, and explain to them that he was now more alive than he had ever been before. His life had been fulfilled rather than ended. But, his new body would not go down into the water. He could not get back to tell his friends the good news. Then he understood that their time would come, when they, too, would know what he now knew. So, he raised his wings and flew off into his joyous new life! ~Author Unknown~