



Margaret Ann Ahler

May 26, 1942 - August 17, 2016

Margaret Ann Ahler, age 74, of Rensselaer passed away on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 at Franciscan Health Rensselaer. Margaret was born in Mishawaka, Indiana on May 26, 1942 to the late John Cahill and Elizabeth nee Richard O'Donnell. She formerly resided in Chesterton, Indianapolis, South Bend and Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota.

Margaret graduated from St. Mary's High School in Michigan City, Indiana with the Class of 1960. She furthered her education at Alverno College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Purdue University, Indianapolis and St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Indiana graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in History in May of 1982. She began her student teaching in the Fall of 1983 at the Rensselaer Central School Corporation, where she spent the next 23 years. She was the Gifted and Talented Coordinator on Grant from the Indiana Department of Education while at RCHS from 1985 to 1988, while also fulfilling the duties of a Teacher's Substitute at the Middle and High schools.

From 1991 to 2006, she became a full-time Social Studies teacher at the Rensselaer Central Middle. During her 15 years as the 7th grade Social Studies teacher, she touched hundreds of young lives. She cherished her students dearly and loved her work in the classroom as much as her work in the home.

Margaret was fully engaged in serving her community. She was a charter member of the Jasper County Hospital Auxiliary, former Chairman of the Jasper County Cancer Crusade, a devoted member of St. Augustine Catholic Church where she served on the Board of Education and the Parish Council and was the past President of the Christian Women's Group of St. Augustine. She served with the Red Cross and the Rensselaer Child Care Advisory Board. Together with her husband Ken, they were very active in the Boy Scouts of America for many years. She was a long-time member of the Jasper Foundation. She enjoyed reading, gardening, traveling and visiting museums and antique stores. Above all, she loved her family dearly and enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren.

On August 24, 1963 in Chesterton, Margaret married the love of her life, Dr. Kenneth J. Ahler who survives. Together, they had three children, Dr. John Patrick (Melissa) Ahler, Mary Margaret (Don) Spagnolo and the Honorable James Robert (Tara) Ahler. She is also survived by two brothers, Patrick (Anne) O'Donnell and John O'Donnell, 13 grandchildren, Jacob, Ben, Noah, Sam, Isaac, Abigail, Adam, Philip, Annie, Oliva, John, Quin & Sydney and one great-grandchild on the way.

Friends are invited to visit with the family at Jackson Funeral Chapel in Rensselaer on Monday August 22, 2016 from 2:00 to 7:00 PM with a Rosary Service to follow. A funeral mass for Margaret will be held at the St. Augustine Catholic Church on Tuesday, August 23, 2016 at 10:00 AM with Father William Stang officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Rensselaer. Memorials may be made to the St. Augustine Catholic School.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Calvary Cemetery - Rensselaer

Mt. Calvary Cemetery
Rensselaer, IN 47978

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **22**. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer
250 N. McKinley Avenue
P.O. Box 70
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5123
info@jacksonfuneral.com
<https://www.jacksonfuneral.com>

Rosary

AUG **22**. 7:00 PM (CT)

Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer
250 N. McKinley Avenue
P.O. Box 70
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5123
info@jacksonfuneral.com
<https://www.jacksonfuneral.com>

Funeral Mass

AUG **23**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Augustine Catholic Church
318 North McKinley Avenue
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5351
<https://stmichaelpastorate.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Jackson Funeral Chapels created a Tribute Video in memory of Margaret Ann Ahler*



Jackson Funeral Chapels - August 19, 2016 at 08:09 PM

TW

What a beautiful tribute to your mother. Her smile I loved it. She was such a sweet and gentle spirit, she reminded me of my mother which I lost 27 years ago. She was always so positive with such a strong faith. What a wife and mother she was. I admired her and your dad and the wonderful family they raised. What a blessing. so sorry for your loss. She will be missed!

Tom and Sue wing - September 05, 2016 at 04:07 PM

SA

On behalf of my entire family, I would like to say that my grandmother, Margret, was one of the most amazing people we have ever known. As our family grows, we know that she is looking down at us and smiling. We all think of her a lot, especially during the holidays and we all wish from the bottom of our hearts that she was here with us today. Losing her 3 years ago was extremely difficult, but now I think all of us know that she is still in our hearts. I think of her very often and remember that she was one of the most selfless people I have ever known.

Sydney Ahler - December 22, 2019 at 12:10 PM



“ *Linda Hughes lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Ahler*



Linda Hughes - September 08, 2016 at 12:44 AM



“ *George And Joan Kanne lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Ahler*



George and Joan Kanne - September 01, 2016 at 03:39 PM



“ *You are all in my thoughts and prayers. God Bless you!*

Donna Gehring Chalko - August 23, 2016 at 08:34 PM



What a sweet and gentle spirit. She was always so positive with such a strong faith. Her smile brightened your day. She reminded me of my mom which I lost 27 years ago. Such a gentle soul. We admired the family they raised. What an awesome blessing to know them. You have such a wonderful family and have been so very blessed. So sorry for you loss.

Tom and Sue wing - September 05, 2016 at 04:17 PM

BW

“ So sorry for your loss! Thoughts and prayers are with you all!
Barb Gehring Wilgus



Barb Wilgus - August 23, 2016 at 05:03 PM

JF

“ *Dearest Ahler Family,*

We are so very saddened to learn and hear of your dearly beloved Mother's passing, recently! Please accept our deepest sympathies and condolences. May God comfort and strengthen your entire family, through this very difficult time. You have all of our prayers!

Love Always,

The Mihalich Family

James and Amy Mihalich & Family - August 23, 2016 at 02:21 PM

LK

“ *So sorry to hear of your mother's passing. I am sure she's looking down on you and she will always be in your heart. Larry and Judy Koebcke*

larry and judy koebcke - August 22, 2016 at 09:28 PM

DF

“ We are sorry for your loss. I have always enjoyed our conversations over the years. She was an eloquent spokesperson for the continuation of Alternacare despite the assimilation of JCH into what is now FHR.

*With our sympathy
Peter and Diane Fish*

Diane Fish - August 22, 2016 at 06:00 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Margaret Ann Ahler.



August 22, 2016 at 03:11 PM

JB

“ Judy Burvan lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Ahler



Judy Burvan - August 22, 2016 at 12:39 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Margaret Ann Ahler.



August 22, 2016 at 12:13 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Margaret Ann Ahler.*



August 22, 2016 at 10:49 AM



“ *When Margaret got excited in the classroom about her lesson (which was a daily event), the entire middle school building could feel the energy and hear her enthusiasm. It made me giggle knowing that students were experiencing a Social Studies force of nature whose devotion would not be denied. Nor will it be forgotten. Thank you, Margaret!*

Holly Hopkins - August 22, 2016 at 08:39 AM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Margaret Ann Ahler.*



August 21, 2016 at 07:00 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Margaret Ann Ahler.*



August 20, 2016 at 03:32 PM

LR

“ *Lorrayne Hammond Rizer sent a virtual gift in memory of Margaret Ann Ahler*



Lorrayne Hammond Rizer - August 20, 2016 at 12:15 PM

LR

“ *Lorrayne Hammond Rizer lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Ahler*



Lorrayne Hammond Rizer - August 20, 2016 at 12:14 PM

JB

“ *Judy Burvan lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Ahler*



Judy Burvan - August 20, 2016 at 06:12 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Margaret Ann Ahler.*



August 19, 2016 at 09:49 PM

RL

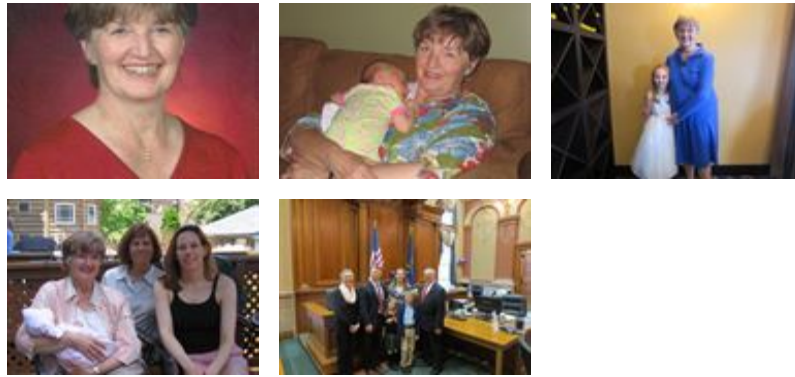
“ *Rich And Sue Ludington lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Ahler*



Rich and Sue Ludington - August 19, 2016 at 08:03 PM



“ *54 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Jackson Funeral Chapels - August 19, 2016 at 07:59 PM



“ *The Laird family sends blessings and prayers to the Ahlers. I have warm memories of the Ahlers being part of the monthly discussion group dinners along with our parents.*

Misha Laird - August 19, 2016 at 06:30 PM

DF

“ Dear Family,
We are so sorry for your loss.
All of you are in "Our thoughts & Prayers."
With Our Deepest Sympathy,
Debby Anderson & Family



Debby Anderson & Family - August 19, 2016 at 06:28 PM



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the
family of Margaret Ann Ahler.



August 19, 2016 at 05:58 PM

JL

“ Jim & Dorrie Lefler lit a candle in memory of
Margaret Ann Ahler



Jim & Dorrie Lefler - August 19, 2016 at 10:43 AM

LH

“ We are sorry for your loss. Your Mother was a
very special lady. Our children both had her
as a teacher and she was one of their
favorites. May God bless each of you and
keep you in their prayers. Larry and Garnet
Huhn



Larry and Garnet Huhn - August 19, 2016 at 10:06 AM

CS

“ *Mrs. Ahler always had a smile and kind word when I saw her. She was a special kind of lady.* ”



Chris (Mahnesmith) Scheurich - August 19, 2016 at 10:00 AM

Nancy
Pettet-
Dunlap

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. We are so sorry for your loss.
Charlie & Nancy Dunlap Jr.
Cole&Avery* ”



Nancy Pettet- Dunlap - August 19, 2016 at 07:38 AM

JS

“ *Many thoughts and prayers be with you. Mrs. Ahler was one of my first engaging leaders on the path to Eagle Scout. God bless. I bid you farewell.* ”

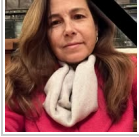
Jim Steiner - August 19, 2016 at 07:34 AM



“ *Rebecca Chastain lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Ahler* ”



Rebecca Chastain - August 19, 2016 at 07:11 AM



“ *She was so dignified and kind*



Nath Jones - August 19, 2016 at 04:35 AM

TS

“ *Tamara Sayers lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Ahler*



Tamara Sayers - August 19, 2016 at 02:10 AM

TS

I made wonderful memories with you, as you taught at the M.School in Rensselaer. You were such an encourager, and your smile lit up the room. Thanks, for always having an open ear, you will surely be missed!

Tammy Sayers - August 19, 2016 at 02:15 AM

BP

Truly a loving person who adored her husband and family, plus the students she taught. She will be greatly missed by the Rensselaer community.

George and Bernice Post

Bernice Post - August 19, 2016 at 08:25 AM

ET

I'm so sorry to hear that. I will always remember Margaret as an affectionate , sweet , lovely lady whom I had the pleasure to live with for several months. She will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her. My thoughts and prayers go to her family, god bless. Elsa Torre

elsa torre - August 21, 2016 at 02:10 AM

SD

“ While at LAX on our way to China, with a St Joseph College Tour, I commented that I loved "Snickers candy bars". Margaret and I both had birthdays in China. She surprised me with a "snickers" on May 25th. She had to have bought in at LAX ! In years to come, she would send a "snickers" with Ken to give me at RCC when he made rounds. She was a unique Blessing in my life. Sharon Davisson

sharon davisson - August 18, 2016 at 10:23 PM

JW

“ Jill Wilson lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Ahler



Jill Wilson - August 18, 2016 at 08:52 PM



“ Rebecca Chastain lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Ahler



Rebecca Chastain - August 18, 2016 at 08:07 PM

RW

“ I am so sorry to hear that Margaret passed away. She was a beautiful person inside and out, a gracious lady and so sweet and kind. i know you will miss her. She had so much love to give her family . She will be greatly missed . Blessings to you all.

Roger and Marge Wealing - August 18, 2016 at 07:59 PM

RW

“ I am so sorry to hear that Margaret passed away. She was a beautiful person inside and out, a gracious lady and so sweet and kind. i know you will miss her. She had so much love to give her family . She will be greatly missed . Blessings to you all.

Roger and Marge Wealing - August 18, 2016 at 07:57 PM

BG

“ Our family was blessed to have known Margaret Ahler. As a neighbor when we first moved to Rensselaer to Milroy Street, Margaret loved to buy Girl Scout cookies from our daughter, Grace. Grace later had the privilege to have Margaret as a teacher. Her compassion & love for her students was evident everyday. Margaret's kindness, love for others & her family is an example to live by. God gained last night a faithful servant. Praise God for the promise of no more suffering for this child of His. Prayers for the Ahler family during this difficult time. Scott, Brenda, Grace, Nick, Michael, & Evan Green

Brenda Green - August 18, 2016 at 06:25 PM

WS

“ So very sorry to hear that a loving and caring person has passed away She will be missed by her wonderful family and her goodness made the world a better place for all lives who came in touch with her. Bless you Ken, John, Mary and James, you had a wonderful wife and mother to go through life with. Sincerely, Walt and Sue Schaltenbrand

Walt and Sue Schaltenbrand - August 18, 2016 at 06:23 PM

ZA

“ *Zofia Anselm lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Ahler*



zofia anselm - August 18, 2016 at 05:51 PM

OA

“ *Otis Anselm lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Ahler*



otis anselm - August 18, 2016 at 05:50 PM

JV

“ *When I first moved onto Milroy Avenue, she and I shared many talks, standing outside while she worked on her yard. My children and I would sneak over and rake her yard when she was gone. She was so kind, soft-spoken and being around her warmed your heart. She was an incredible mother and her love and values show through in her family. God bless her, her family and all those that knew her.*

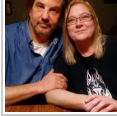
Jessica VonTobel - August 18, 2016 at 05:38 PM

MW

“ *Mark And Stacy Waling lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Ahler*



Mark and stacy waling - August 18, 2016 at 04:58 PM



my prayers go out to the family....

Kenneth Tesky - August 18, 2016 at 07:51 PM

DG

“ *Our deepest sympathy to the family. You are in are prayers.
Estel & Deana George*

Deana George - August 18, 2016 at 04:57 PM

DW

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. May your many
wonderful memories help you through this very difficult time. God
bless you all.
Don & Gloria Waymouth*

Don & Gloria Waymouth - August 18, 2016 at 04:49 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for
the family of Margaret Ann Ahler.*



August 18, 2016 at 04:42 PM

TR

“ *I will always remember the great friendship between my mom and
Margaret - it was special and very important to my mom. Margaret
was kind to everyone, interested in what they were doing and
always a great support. She will always be missed! Teresa Snyder
Rishel*

Teresa Rishel - August 18, 2016 at 04:18 PM

RS

“ Margaret was a very nice and friendly lady! It was always a joy when she came into our store. Our deepest sympathy and prayers for your family as you have many precious memories. Roger & Vicki Steffen

Roger & Vicki Steffen - August 18, 2016 at 04:11 PM

TS

“ TIM & LINDA SHIDE lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Ahler



TIM & IINDA SHIDE - August 18, 2016 at 03:57 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Margaret Ann Ahler.



August 18, 2016 at 03:38 PM

JK

“ My prayers are with the whole Ahler family. Fr. Jeff Kirch, CPPS

jeffrey kirch - August 18, 2016 at 02:23 PM

KR

“ *Krista Ruemler lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Ahler*



Krista Ruemler - August 18, 2016 at 02:19 PM

ST

“ *So sorry for lost I'm prayers with the family she was a great ladie*

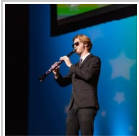
Stacywaling - August 18, 2016 at 02:14 PM

CW

“ *I will never forget Mrs. Ahler. She made history fun! Always a smiling face in in or out of the classroom.*



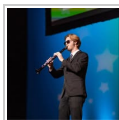
Caressa Williamson - August 18, 2016 at 02:04 PM



“ *Sharon Adams lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Ahler*



Sharon Adams - August 18, 2016 at 01:47 PM



I am so sorry to read this today. We love the Ahler family so very much. May God give you peace during this time of loss.

Sharon Adams - August 18, 2016 at 01:48 PM

RP

“ I am so sorry to hear of your great loss. I have many fond memories of Margaret, especially when she was our GT Coordinator and helping our elementary program. She was a wonderful person, so involved in the community and touching many lives with her teaching. She will be greatly missed by many.

Ruth Paulsen - August 18, 2016 at 01:35 PM

SW

“ I am sorry to hear this news. Margaret was a Wonderful mentor to me as I began teaching in the Rensselaer school system. She had a heart of gold and her love for teaching was unparalleled. She did whatever it took to help the students grow. She loved to have "smackerels" with the team, wether it be at school or at her house. I loved talking to her and learning from her.

Sindi Wamsley - August 18, 2016 at 01:21 PM

SW

“ Sindi Wamsley lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Ahler



Sindi Wamsley - August 18, 2016 at 01:15 PM



“ Taunia Rients lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Ahler



Taunia Rients - August 18, 2016 at 01:08 PM

RH

“ *Rich & Dale Huhn lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Ahler*



Rich & Dale Huhn - August 18, 2016 at 12:31 PM

AS

“ *Anna Sayers lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Ahler*



Anna Sayers - August 18, 2016 at 12:24 PM

EA

“ *Erin Adell lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Ahler*



Erin Adell - August 18, 2016 at 12:22 PM

JT

“ *What a great lady and teacher, she will be missed by many*

January Torres - August 18, 2016 at 11:56 AM

Jody
Lloyd

“ *Sending thoughts and prayers for peace and comfort.*

Tony & Jody Lloyd



Jody Lloyd - August 18, 2016 at 11:55 AM

AR

“ *She made a great impact on every one she met. She will be missed by many.*



Ashley Rayburn - August 18, 2016 at 11:46 AM

MC

“ *Mary Jo Casey lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Ahler*



Mary Jo Casey - August 18, 2016 at 11:30 AM