



## Kay "Betsy" Strommen

May 28, 1951 - November 25, 2024

Kay "Betsy" Elizabeth Strommen, age 73 resident of Racine, WI passed away peacefully at her residence surrounded by her family and caregivers on November 25, 2024.

Kay was born on May 28, 1951, in Racine, WI to the late Anton (Edna) Homolka. She lived in Racine where she graduated from Park High School in 1969. She attended college at UW Parkside in Kenosha, WI where she studied both psychology and sociology. Kay worked as a social worker for several years before changing careers to work at S.C. Johnson Wax for over 20 years until retirement.

She was united in marriage to the love of her life, Thomas "Tommy" Strommen on May 27, 1977; and welcomed her young stepchildren Cheryl, Tim, and Cindy with open arms. Kay enjoyed sharing her creative spirit and hobbies of music, theatre, arts, cooking, literature, travel, and languages with Tommy and the kids over the years. A typical Saturday afternoon could include painting outside in the woods with canvas and oil paints, creating a skit to perform later that night with props and costumes, or making homemade pasta & sausage from scratch. There was no limit to what she would do to teach her kids and grandkids to be creative.

Kay was a self-taught scholar of many languages, music, arts and literature. She was always reading and when she finished the books from the library she had for the week, she would open an encyclopedia. We are pretty sure she eventually made it through the entire set! She took this knowledge to travel

and explore the world with her husband Tommy which inspired her to start writing about their adventures. She also wrote several novels which she eventually planned to publish. One of her favorite and most frequent places to travel was to the Czech Republic to visit her relatives and friends, who will miss her dearly.

When she wasn't traveling abroad, Kay and Tommy enjoyed searching for the best fishing holes here in the States. They were not only looking for trophy fish, but also for the quantity! Fish was frequently enjoyed at every meal, but especially when shared with family.

Kay is survived by her children: Cheryl (Randy) Loppnow, Tim (Jodene) Strommen, and Cindy Strommen; grandchildren: Joshua Hansen, Tanner Strommen, and Tucker (Caitlyn) Strommen; siblings: Tom (Cori) Watson, Dennis (Liz) Homolka, Karen Karpinski; brothers and sisters in-law: Sandy (Joe) Fliess, Daniel (Joy) Strommen, Todd (Becky) Strommen, Sue (Jim) Koloske, Becky Limbach, Linda Strommen, Lurene Coles and many special nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband Thomas Strommen; her parents; her in-laws Alger (Ella) Strommen and Lucille Sadler, brother and sister in-laws: Edward (Sue) Strommen, John Strommen, Jim Coles and her many cats all named Kitty. A special thanks to her in-home caregivers Tom, Vicka, Theresa and Gentiva Hospice; and the numerous healthcare professionals who compassionately provided assistance to her in the last year.

Visitation will be held at Sturino Funeral Home on Friday December 6, 2024, from 3-5 p.m. A private burial will be held at Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Friday December 13, 2024.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Humane Society [wihumane.org](http://wihumane.org); or Racine Public Library.

# Cemetery Details

## Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery

21731 Spring Street  
Union Grove, WI 53182

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 6. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Sturino Funeral Home  
3014 Northwestern Avenue  
Racine, WI 53404  
(262) 632-4479  
[info@sturinofuneralhome.com](mailto:info@sturinofuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

LS

“ I met Kay and her husband, Mr Tom Strommen, in 1988 through my former college roommate and dear friend of 36 years, Cindy Strommen. Kay and I hit it off right away. Since I was a foreign student from Namibia, Kay wanted to know everything there is to know about my country and was interested in my views and opinions on world issues. Kay was a brilliant woman and was well read. Over the years we communicated through emails and saw each other whenever I visited the US. I was always interested in getting hearing her insights on many countries she and her husband visited. And of course we also talked about her visit to Namibia which unfortunately never happened. Last time I saw Kay was at a my surprise birthday party organised by my dearest friend Cindy at her home (Cindy's home) in Franklin, Wisconsin. Kay played beautiful songs on the piano and was very happy to be there, just like I was. I loved Kay and will miss her. She was my person and will remain a part of me forever. Rest in peace Kay. Lavinia Shikongo

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**lavinia shikongo** - December 03, 2024 at 12:58 AM

PB

“ I will miss Kay's energy and quest for knowledge. She was fun to be around. Keith and I enjoyed some great vacations with Tom and Kay and frequent visits to the Chinese restaurant while we were in Racine. I'm sure Kay and Keith are sparring over politics as I write this. Rest in Peace dear Kay

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**Patricia Borsel** - December 02, 2024 at 12:28 PM



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

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November 29, 2024 at 10:02 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kay "Betsy" Strommen.*



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November 29, 2024 at 10:02 AM



“ *I will cherish my memories of Betsy throughout the decades I knew her as a young girl and later with Tom. It was wonderful to watch them together with creative sparks flying. Both always competitive at fishing, games and generosity. She was one of the most intelligent, adventurous, unapologetic, loving people ever. I'm will not be able to attend her funeral service but extend heartfelt condolences to all who loved her. She is unforgettable. Jill Jensen*

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**Jill Jensen** - November 28, 2024 at 01:36 PM



*This obituary is such a great tribute to Kay. She was very talented indeed. I never knew that she had written any novels. I'd sure love to read them.  
I hope that the family finds comfort knowing that she is now reunited with the love of her life.  
She was for sure a rare treasure.  
Love and peace to the family.  
Sincerely, Diane Strommen ❤️*

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**Diane Strommen** - November 28, 2024 at 05:32 PM



*Condolences to Tim & Jodene Strommen (I worked at Wisconsin Electric with both of them.) Condolences to the Strommen family & friends of my classmate ('69) Kay.*

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**Tyrone Person** - November 29, 2024 at 11:59 PM