



Suzanne L. Ratkowski

January 9, 2020

Suzanne L Ratkowski passed away January 9, 2020 at age 69. She was preceded in death by her parents Casimir and Esther Ratkowski, and her sister Cheryl (Ratkowski) Ralph. She is survived by her brother-in-law Scott A. Ralph and wife Mary; nephew Scott E. Ralph, his wife Alissa and their two children, Nolan and Ella; Niece Kerri Jo (Ralph) Cunningham and her husband Ryan and their two children, Hannah and Megan; Cousins Karlene (Ratkowski) Sillmann, Patrick and Michael Ratkowski and Jerry Molenda; other relatives and many friends.

After graduating from Notre Dame High School, Sue attended Marquette University where she earned her Bachelor of Science degrees in physics and math in 1972. She completed her Master of Business Administration degree in 1986.

In 1974 while in graduate school Sue began working part-time for UPS. She was quickly promoted through the ranks to truck driver, Industrial Engineering supervisor, and manager. In 1985 she was relocated from Milwaukee, WI to Louisville, KY as UPS began its air hub expansion. Over the next years she was part of the Operations Research department, and as a project manager responsible for technology development projects. In 1992 she was promoted to Division Manager of the Yechnology and Planning department. In 1998 Sue became the Systems manager of UPS' Transportation Technology Group.

Sue retired from UPS in 2007 with 33 years of service. Her approach toward her work and success was to “work hard and with integrity and treat people with dignity and respect while always working to help them reach their highest potential.”

In 2003 Sue was recognized by Presentation Academy, with the Tower Award for her service and support of the school. In 2010 Sue received the Distinguished Alumna of the Year Award from Marquette University. During her career and in retirement Sue has worked with Marquette University, United Way, and Presentation Academy helping to provide opportunities to others. Sue believed that there was no limit to what individuals could accomplish when they work with and build up other people. Sue spent her life living out this belief.

Visitation Saturday, January 18 from 9:00 to 10:00 AM at Gesu Catholic Church (1145 West Wisconsin Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53233)(Please use parking lot J, see below for more information) followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 AM. Entombment St. Adalbert Cemetery.

A Memorial Service will be held for Sue in Louisville, KY at Presentation Academy (900 S. 4th St., Louisville, KY 40203) on January 23rd at 2:00 PM. In lieu of flowers please make donations to Presentation Academy (861 S. 4th St., Louisville, KY 40203).

PARKING INFORMATION

Free parking is available immediately adjacent to the Parish Center and church in Lot J. The entrance to the lot is on 11th Street south of Wisconsin Avenue.

Cemetery Details

St. Adalbert Cemetery

3801 S. 6th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53221

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 18. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Gesu Catholic Church
1145 West Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 18. 10:00 AM (CT)

Gesu Catholic Church
1145 West Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Entombment

JAN 18. 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Adalbert Cemetery
3801 S. 6th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53221

Tribute Wall

KL

“ Sue Ratkowski was a brilliant business woman who was very effective in resolving difficult issues and utilizing her group's talents. Someone once gave her a "EASY" button from Staples Office Supply, which seemed fitting because that's what she made life appear to always be! She was a blessing to UPS and the Louisville community, well deserving of every complement and acknowledgement!

Kevin Love - May 13, 2020 at 11:56 PM

JH

“ A close friend, an outstanding student, and an immense credit to her community and her Church, even as a teen. Sue, from one Latin Language lover to another: *Requiescas semper in pace Domini* (May you always rest in the peace of the Lord). Father Jack Hopka, Notre Dame High School Class of 1968.

Jack Hopka - January 17, 2020 at 08:51 PM

JP

“ Jane & Victor Peterson purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Suzanne L. Ratkowski.



Jane & Victor Peterson - January 17, 2020 at 04:35 PM

MU

“ Sue was an original who brought a lot of intelligence, heart and original thinking to UPS. I worked with her in the early days of the airline, and she was instrumental in getting this operation off the ground. After she left UPS, she was generous with her time and money to help advance education and women's causes. She will be missed!

Mike Mangeot, UPS - January 15, 2020 at 04:45 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Suzanne L. Ratkowski.



January 15, 2020 at 08:40 AM

RP

“ I met Sue at UPS. She was one of the most intelligent and fairest people that I have ever met. She was missed the day she retired. May God bless her and take her home. (Randy)

Randy Phillips - January 14, 2020 at 02:56 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Suzanne L. Ratkowski.



January 14, 2020 at 09:59 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Suzanne L. Ratkowski.*



January 14, 2020 at 09:03 AM



“ *We have been very fortunate to have Sue in our life, not only as a cousin but as a friend. She has shared many adventures with myself as well as my family. Great times and great memories. Sue also invited us to the Packer and we had a blast! Luvs always.*

Karlene Ratkowski Sillman



Karlene Sillman - January 13, 2020 at 12:01 PM



“ *Scott R. purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Suzanne L. Ratkowski.*



Scott R. - January 13, 2020 at 11:43 AM

Scott
Ralph

“ *My wedding day.*



Scott Ralph - January 13, 2020 at 11:26 AM

Scott
Ralph

“ *This was Christmas 2008 grandma on left aunt sue on the right happy to open photos we gave them.*



Scott Ralph - January 13, 2020 at 10:57 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Suzanne L. Ratkowski.*



January 12, 2020 at 05:40 PM

Sue
Krzyzanov

“ *I met Sue as member of Marquette Band with lots of memories especially the band trips--Ring out Ahoya...pinkies up.*

My prayers to Sue's family. RIP Sue.

Sue Krzyzanowski - January 12, 2020 at 02:21 PM

DZ

“ Sue had a lot of fun at what she did. I remember her doing a time study on me as a drive then working with her when she was in I E in the wisconsin district. She was part of the early years with the air district in Louisville when we crossed paths again. Always smiling and moving forward no matter what others thought. She will be missed. Dave

Dave zuehlke - January 11, 2020 at 11:28 AM

MB

“ My late husband, Doug Dauenhauer, was very close to Sue at UPS and admired her greatly. He spoke of her passion for people and sense of humor often and considered her a friend and mentor and it was her loving and giving spirit he admired most. My prayers go out to Sue's family. RIP Sue.

Mary Bauer - January 10, 2020 at 10:40 PM

DE

“ Sue left many lasting impressions with those she worked with at UPS. There are so many fond memories we have of laughing with her. She was definitely one of a kind and even though she's been gone from UPS over a decade she is still remembered and talked about. RIP Sue Rat!

Desiree - January 10, 2020 at 03:01 PM

MB

My late husband, Doug Dauenhauer, was very close to Sue at UPS and admired her greatly. He spoke of her passion for people and sense of humor often and considered her a friend and mentor and it was her loving and giving spirit he admired most. My prayers go out to Sue's family. RIP Sue.

Mary Bauer - January 10, 2020 at 08:13 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Suzanne L. Ratkowski.*



January 10, 2020 at 02:40 PM



“ *Sue was a brilliant champion for so many causes, especially the STEM education of girls. She lived her life with passion and a desire to make the world a better place. Her legacy includes not only her beloved neice and nephew, but the numerous charities she supported. Her love and laughter will be missed, but never forgotten.*

Heather Falmen - January 10, 2020 at 10:43 AM



That so nice of you, thank you.

Kerri Cunningham - January 10, 2020 at 11:27 AM



Sue played flute in the Milwaukee Area Youth Band, a group that I organized in the very early 1970's. She was always an energetic musician, always positive, and always committed to the group. For many years we were out of touch, but re-connected through Facebook a few years back. It was amazing to hear about the many things she had done to support educational initiatives. Her love of Marquette University, their basketball team, and the Green Bay Packers were life long passions. My wife and I enjoyed an occasional breakfast or lunch with Sue. Even after almost 50 years apart, she still vibrated with energy and passion. We will miss her very much, but are grateful for the time we shared with her. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Michael E Poytinger - January 10, 2020 at 10:00 PM

BT

Brilliant, generous, a humble (too often unsung) hero who played a huge role in the creation of the technology infrastructure of the UPS air package delivery business. And perhaps of even greater value than her contributions to UPS the corporation was her personal investment in the lives and careers of many with whom she worked. I was one of those UPS managers who benefitted from knowing her for more than 20 years; fortunate enough to have realized any time Sue had something to say to me, I would be wise to quietly and carefully listen. Salty, in your face, always driven by thoughtful conviction, Sue was one of a kind! Sad to hear of her passing, we have lost a truly remarkable champion.

Bill Turner - January 11, 2020 at 12:15 PM

JF

A great UPS partner....Jim Flynn

James M Flynn - January 11, 2020 at 01:26 PM

AS

We will miss you Sue. Thank you for being you- a kind, hard working, trailblazer. It was our honor to learn from you.

*Gil and Ann Stein
Louisville, KY*

Ann Stein - January 13, 2020 at 10:18 PM

SB

Dear Sue was a joy to know and appreciate. She meant so much to the education and enrichment of the young women at Presentation Academy in Louisville. Pres is deeply grateful.

Sister Maria Brocato - January 13, 2020 at 11:09 PM