



Geneva "Jenny" R. Kirby

December 7, 1926 - January 28, 2025

Geneva "Jenny" R. Kirby, 98, of Washington, passed away on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria. She was born December 7, 1926, in Sparland to Veach and Bethel (Nation) Anderson. She married John Kirby in 1955. He preceded her in death in 1998.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, five brothers, and two sisters. Geneva is survived by her son, Jon (Lisa) Kirby of Washington; her granddaughter, Amber Kirby of Pekin, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Geneva graduated from Sparland High School in 1944, then worked at Le Tourneau Technologies/WABCO for 22 years, retiring in 1967.

She was a member of Mackinaw Christian Church.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services in East Peoria is assisting the family.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Washington Illinois Rescue Squad. Online condolences may be left at www.GaryDeitersFH.com.

Cemetery Details

Mackinaw Township Cemetery

Mackinaw, IL

Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Geneva "Jenny" R. Kirby.

January 31, 2025 at 11:20 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Geneva "Jenny" R. Kirby.



January 31, 2025 at 11:20 PM



“ I did not know Jenny well, but everything I know of her is that she was a great lady. My condolences to the family on the loss of this wonderful person.

Dawn Kirby Smith - January 31, 2025 at 06:39 PM



“ Elmira R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Geneva "Jenny" R. Kirby.

Elmira R. - January 30, 2025 at 08:03 PM

LL

“ Oh jenny. What a hoot you were. Taking her to Walmart was a treat. She called the shopping cart a "buggy" and I would lose her in the store until she ran into my heels with the buggy full of little Debbie's. She got in someone elses car in parking lot a few times and we laughed so hard we cried. She loved her cat "tinker" (short for stinker) and refused to get another after he passed. Her motto was to take vitamins and if you have zits you are allergic to milk. What a gal she was. Love you jenny. I'm sure you are making people laugh up there.

Lisa Leathers - January 30, 2025 at 01:11 PM

RG

I always loved going to the get togethers and visiting with Jenny there. She was so sharp and snappy and always in a good mood laughing and carrying on telling stories. I just loved her. I always left wishing I had gotten to spend more time with her. Rest in peace Jenny.

Rose Guede - February 02, 2025 at 10:48 AM

DN

“ Dave and Sharon Neeley purchased the Sweet S
nacks Gift Crate for the family of Geneva "Jenny"
R. Kirby.



Dave and Sharon Neeley - January 30, 2025 at 10:59 AM

DN

“ Dave and Sharon Neeley planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Geneva "Jenny" R. Kirby.

Dave and Sharon Neeley - January 30, 2025 at 10:59 AM

JK

“ To everyone visiting the site, and those sending flowers and such, thank you so much. The condolences are very much appreciated. Your kindness will be forever remembered.

Mom was an amazing person. To live most of your adult life sustained by cinnamon doughnuts, Pepsi, coffee, chocolate chip cookies, Kit Kats, Ande's Mints and cigarettes, with nothing in her diet that looked even remotely healthy, and live to be 98 years old is nothing short of amazing. Mom attributed her longevity to a multi vitamin every day and the fact that she never worried about anything. I think delivering newspapers for Tazewell Courier on a bicycle for 20 something years (after her "retirement") had a lot to do with it. I finally took the bike away after her last wreck... she was in her 80's. And, of course, she refused to go to the hospital.

Fun stories...

Mom told me lots of stories of her childhood over the years. One that really humbled me was that her and her seven siblings lived in a tiny house in Sparland (and all of them were born in that house) that only had four rooms: a kitchen, living room and two bed rooms. The five boys had the one bedroom, the girls slept in the living room. They had an outhouse. Their baths were taken in the living room in a wash tub, and in the winter the tub was put behind the wood stove to keep the water warm. They had a smoke house where my grandfather would have a pig and cow hanging for the winter so they would have meat. The house was torn down a few years ago, but last I knew the smoke house is still there.

Mom was a cheerleader in high school. Her nickname was Andy and, being the smallest kid in her class she was the "flyer", the one that got thrown up in the air. Her brother was also one of the cheer leaders tasked with catching her...guess that might make a gal think twice about being terse...

Mom had a beautiful voice and she said she often was asked to

sing hymns on stage in church.

She was a huge fan of 40's music...Tommy Dorsey, Glen Miller, Bing Crosby, the Andrews sisters...Sinatra was her favorite. She loved the jitterbug. I often walked into the nursing home and found her rocking to and fro in her wheel chair, happily singing to herself.

In the summer of '44 she graduated and went to Chicago, where her two sisters lived, as a volunteer in an ammunition factory for the war effort. She was there when the war ended and the troops were coming home. During a ticker tape parade she told me a sailor returning from over seas walked up and kissed her. She said she punched him in the mouth. Poor guy survives the war and gets blasted in the teeth by a 5'2" teenager.

Mom started at Letourneau (now Komatsu) shortly after graduating from high school. Her first job was delivering mail throughout the factory on a bicycle. She said that the men in the factory, many returning from the war, were giving her the patches from their uniforms as she rode about delivering mail. She said she had a jacket with all the patches sewn on back in the day, but had no idea whatever happened to it...classic mom, no worries...

Dad came home from the war and after being discharged from the Marines ended up being stationed as a guard at Letourneau not too long after mom started there. They met and started dating, eventually marrying. Mom retired the year I was born. My folks were old school, a mom should raise her kids.

When mom retired she was in charge of all transactions that required the conversion of US dollars to other currencies for the sale of equipment. She tried to explain it, and it sounded very complicated.

I can't remember a time growing up when mom didn't stop what she was doing to spend time with me. She was my rock. I'm blessed to have had her for this many years and thankful that I had her so near

for the last several years. The world isn't the same without her, but I know she is now in a better place.

Love you Mom.

Jon

JON W KIRBY - January 29, 2025 at 09:12 PM

DS

Great memories, Jon! Glad you had so many great years with her. So sorry for your loss.

Dawn Kirby Smith - January 31, 2025 at 06:41 PM

MI

“ *Morton Industries purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Geneva "Jenny" R. Kirby.*



Morton Industries - January 29, 2025 at 12:19 PM

MK

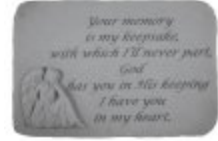
“ *Maury Kirby purchased the Sweet Snacks Gift Crate for the family of Geneva "Jenny" R. Kirby.*



Maury Kirby - January 28, 2025 at 05:02 PM

LE

“ *Laurel Estes purchased the Garden Accent Stone - "Your memory is..." for the family of Geneva "Jenny" R. Kirby.*



Laurel Estes - January 28, 2025 at 04:54 PM