



Suzanne Marie Kifer

July 11, 1959 - August 30, 2025

Suzanne Marie (Brumback) Kifer was born to Kenneth and Cecile Brumback on July 11, 1959, and grew up on her family's farm near Bunceton MO. She accepted Christ in her youth at First Baptist Church of Otterville where her family attended. She graduated from Pilot Grove High School in 1977, and attended college at Southwest Baptist in Bolivar, where she met her husband, Thane. They married on July 26, 1980, on the hottest day of the year. She graduated with a degree in Education from the University of Missouri in 1981, and obtained her Master's in Education in 1982. She and Thane moved back to Thane's hometown of Bolivar and became members of First Baptist Church, developing lifelong friendships which remain to this day. Suzanne established the first Gifted Education program in Polk County when she began teaching at Pleasant Hope Elementary, and loved her role there, as she was also loved by her students. She gave birth to sons Drew (1986) and Troy (1993) and was nothing short of a super-mom. In 1998 the family moved to El Dorado Springs where they remained until 2004 when they returned to Bolivar. Suzanne retired from the public school system in 2014 after touching the lives of countless students over the decades. In 2016 she took on her favorite role - that of 'Nana' - with the birth of her granddaughter Cora, and later James and Owen. She had a special soft spot for her 'fur babies' as well- her puppies gave her added joy.

Suzanne was an incredibly loving person. She gave of herself to her family, to her students, and to her friends. She was selfless- always putting the needs of others ahead of her own. She was a natural beauty, but always humble. She led by example, and was always encouraging to others. A diagnosis of gliosarcoma – a rare, aggressive, and inoperable brain cancer – came in June of 2025, but she immediately made her peace with her situation, and focused on enjoying the little things. As the cancer took her energy, then her mobility, and eventually most of her speech, she never stopped loving, never stopped encouraging, and never stopped trusting in the Lord’s plan. Her last words represented her life’s story, distilled in four simple words: “I love you too.”

She left her earthly body in her sleep the night of August 30, and entered the presence of the Lord, where there is no suffering and no cancer. She is preceded in death by her parents, her brother Ron Brumback, and her granddaughter Celia Rose Kifer. She is survived by siblings David and Joyce, husband Thane, sons Drew (and wife Jessica) and Troy, grandchildren Cora, James, and Owen, and many friends and extended family who miss her dearly. Services will be held at Butler Funeral Home in Bolivar MO with a visitation on Sunday, September 7 from 3-5 PM and funeral services on Monday, September 8 at 2 PM with interment following at Greenwood Cemetery. Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to Friends of Bolivar Parks in her honor, in order to support the construction of the upcoming municipal dog park. Donations may be sent to the Butler Funeral Home, P.O. Box 11 Bolivar, MO 65613.

Cemetery Details

Greenwood Cemetery

S. Dunnegan Ave.
Bolivar, MO 65613

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 7. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Bolivar
407 E. Broadway
Bolivar, MO 65613
(417) 326-5233
<https://butlerfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

SEP 8. 2:00 PM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Bolivar
407 E. Broadway
Bolivar, MO 65613
(417) 326-5233
<https://butlerfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

CR

“ Christian R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Suzanne Marie Kifer.

Christian R. - September 08, 2025 at 10:03 AM

SG

“ I want to share the words of a song from the musical "Wicked" because I feel that the words express how I feel about Suzanne and her impact on me and the many, many people she touched throughout her life. The title is "FOR GOOD" -- "I've heard it said that people come into our lives for a reason, bringing something we must learn; and we are led to those who help us most to grow if we let them, and we help them in return. Well, I don't know if I believe that's true; But I know I'm who I am today because I knew you... Who can say if I've been changed for the better, but because I knew you,
I have been changed for good.
It well may be that we will never meet again in this lifetime, so let me say before we part so much of me is made of what I learned from you. You'll be with me like a handprint on my heart. And now whatever way our stories end, I know you have rewritten mine by being my friend... Who can say if I've been changed for the better ... I Do Believe that I've been changed for the better ... And because I knew you, I HAVE BEEN CHANGED FOR GOOD."

Thank you, dear Father in heaven, for sending such a lovely, kind, intelligent, caring, precious person in Suzanne Marie Kifer to touch my life and so many others in her time on this earth. I love you, Suzanne!

From Shauna Bryant Garrison

Shauna Bryant Garrison - September 08, 2025 at 09:42 AM

MG

“ Malinda G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Suzanne Marie Kifer.

Malinda G. - September 07, 2025 at 03:03 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Suzanne Marie Kifer.



September 06, 2025 at 05:49 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Suzanne Marie Kifer.

September 06, 2025 at 05:49 AM

KA

“ Kenny and Kimie Ashlock purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Suzanne Marie Kifer.



Kenny and Kimie Ashlock - September 05, 2025 at 07:45 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Suzanne Marie Kifer.



September 05, 2025 at 01:27 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Suzanne Marie Kifer.

September 05, 2025 at 01:27 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Suzanne Marie Kifer.



September 04, 2025 at 08:01 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Suzanne Marie Kifer.

September 04, 2025 at 08:01 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Suzanne Marie Kifer.



September 03, 2025 at 05:31 PM

TL

“ Thora, Brian, Zoe and Luke purchased the *Serene Reflections Bouquet* for the family of Suzanne Marie Kifer.



Thora, Brian, Zoe and Luke - September 02, 2025 at 02:14 PM

TL

“ Thora, Brian, Zoe and Luke planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Suzanne Marie Kifer.

Thora, Brian, Zoe and Luke - September 02, 2025 at 02:14 PM