



Dorothy Sue Serena

December 5, 1948 - May 22, 2025

Dorothy Sue Serena

(nee Jaros)

Dorothy Sue Serena, 76, of South Wilmington, IL, passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, May 22, 2025, surrounded by the love of her family. Born December 5, 1948, in Joliet, IL, Dorothy was the beloved daughter of Edward and Hazel (nee Brackett) Jaros. On June 7, 1969, she married the love of her life, Monty Serena, at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in South Wilmington.

Together, they built a home filled with a deep devotion to family.

Dorothy's life was rooted in the joy of togetherness. She cherished every moment spent with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. A special bond with her daughter led to a treasured tradition of spending Tuesdays together, a ritual that began in the 1990s and never faded.

A talented cook who learned from both her mother and mother-in-law, Dorothy found joy in preparing meals that brought her family together. She also enjoyed traveling, especially trips to Arizona and Las Vegas. Her fun-loving personality was reflected in her love of monkeys, which brought her endless delight over the years.

Dorothy worked as a waitress for over 30 years, mostly at Gardner Family Restaurant. She was active in her community through the South Wilmington Grade School Mom's Club and the Firettes. In her younger days, she loved to bowl and was exceptional at it. She also enjoyed country dancing and spent many joyful hours dancing with the Bootkickers.

Dorothy is survived by her devoted husband of 55 years, Monty Serena; her loving mother, Hazel Jaros; and her cherished children, James A. (Kris) Serena of Morris, IL, and Carla (Craig) Muzzarelli of South Wilmington. She is also survived by her dear siblings, Shirley Hofseth of Chandler, IN, and Edward Jaros of Morris, IL.

Dorothy was a proud and loving grandmother to Kristin Serena, Dustyn Muzzarelli, Hannah (Alex) Serena, and Dylan Muzzarelli, and a joyful great-grandmother to Dawson, Veronica, and Thomas. She also leaves behind her beloved grand-critters, Louie, Lynk, and Hazel, who brought her endless companionship and joy. Dorothy was preceded in death by her father, Edward Jaros, and her special brother-in-law, Oly Hofseth.

Visitation will be held at R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory in Braidwood, IL on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, from 4:00–7:00 p.m. Funeral services will take place on Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at 10:00am, at the funeral home, with Reverend Stanley Drewniak officiating. Interment will follow at Braceville-Gardner Cemetery in Braceville, IL.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Grundy County Heroes and Helpers.

To share memories or offer condolences, please visit Dorothy's online guestbook at www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find us on Facebook.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory
401 E. Main St., Braidwood, 815-458-2336
www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com

Cemetery Details

Braceville-Gardner Cemetery

7295 W. Braceville Road
Braceville, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 27. 4:00 PM (CT)

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home
401 East Main St.
Braidwood, IL 60408
(815) 458-2336
info@rwpattersonfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com>

Service

MAY 28. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (CT)

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home
401 East Main St.
Braidwood, IL 60408
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Tribute Wall



“ 4 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



R W Patterson Funeral Homes, Ltd. - June 04, 2025 at 12:37 PM

JT

“ My deepest sympathy to Monty and the family. She always had a smile. Jean (Allen) Thorson.

Jean (Allen) Thorson - May 28, 2025 at 06:02 PM

CW

“ My sympathy to the Jaros and Serena families for your loss. I remember Dorothy well. She was a year ahead of me in school through grade and high school. She was a wonderful person.

Cathy (Joyce) Walton - May 28, 2025 at 10:52 AM

DS

“ I will always remember Aunt Dorothy for her love of family and her wit. She could drop a funny line with the best of them, quick, dry, and with a little smile. It was always a treat to share a visit, at home or in Arizona, Las Vegas, our wedding, or South Dakota. Things will not be the same without her, but we can all take comfort that we had her in our lives.

With Love, Sadness and Fond Memories,

Don, Dawn, Ethan, and Maddie Stacy



Don Stacy - May 28, 2025 at 08:58 AM

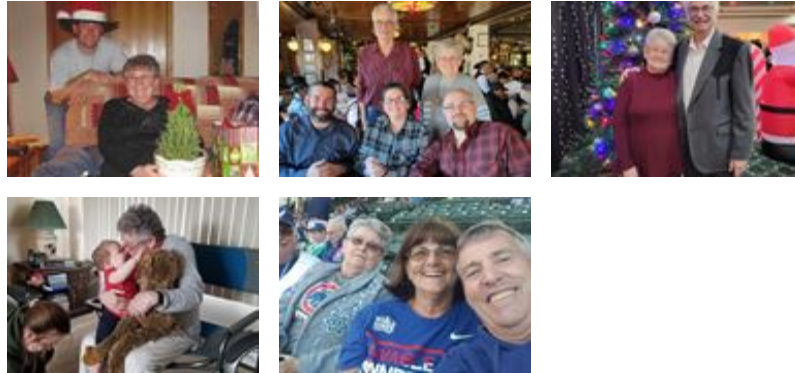
AJ

“ *Deepest sympathies to the Serena family for your loss. I remember Dorothy to be a wonderful fun person to be around. I know she will be missed by her loved ones. Annette Residori-Johnson*

Annette M Johnson - May 27, 2025 at 05:13 PM



“ 137 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



R W Patterson Funeral Homes, Ltd. - May 24, 2025 at 09:56 AM

GJ

“ *Personally I didn't know Dorothy, but met her maybe once or twice. What I do know about her is that she raised a wonderful daughter & that doesn't just happen! To all who loved her, please accept our deepest sympathy. May you all continue to bond together in love.*

Gary & Janet - May 23, 2025 at 05:24 PM

JB

“ We will always remember what a kind and loving person Dorothy was to us. She welcomed Harpo and I into her family and included us in many celebrations. She shared some of her cherished recipes with us and made us feel right at home.

Dorothy had a wonderful sense of humor and delighted us by sharing many family stories. The world isn't as bright since her light is now gone.

Our hearts go out to Monty, Jimmy, Carla and the entire family. Thank you for sharing Dorothy with us and letting us always be a part of your lives. We are so very sorry for your loss of this beautiful woman. We are praying that your cherished memories help to ease your pain in these most difficult days.

All of our love,

Harpo and Jodie Bertucci

jodie bertucci - May 23, 2025 at 03:15 PM

CS

“ We are deeply sorry for your family's loss! You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Schmitt & Claudette

Claudette Schmitt - May 23, 2025 at 12:59 PM

KM

“ My love and condolences to all of the Jaros and Serena families. As a child and ongoing in life my most favorite thing to do was to travel to South Wilmington to visit my cousin, Dorothy. So many memories of fun and laughter and also, reprimands from my dad, your Uncle Joe, when necessary, hah! You are so missed but live on thru your beautiful children. Rest in heaven, dear cuz.

Kathy Jaros Miller - May 23, 2025 at 12:13 PM

JM

“ We became a part of Dorothy's family when my son married Carla, she was easy to love and we made so many great memories throughout the years. Our last wonderful memory was Dorothy was able to come to our new house in Gardner for all of us to spend Easter together. She was loved by many and will be missed by all her grandchildren and great grandchildren, sister, mom and most of all her kids and Monty. Sadly she will be missed but forever in our hearts with all the memories and love shared by so many.

Jo Ann Maloney - May 23, 2025 at 11:36 AM