



## Jill Meredith Huels

August 3, 1949 - November 7, 2021

Jill Meredith Huels,

72, of Fishers, passed away November 7, 2021. She was born August 3, 1949 in Des Moines, Iowa to the late Wayne and Jean Smith. Jill was a 1967 graduate of Oshkosh High School, where she was part of the Fruit Bowl. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Education from Iowa State University where she was a proud Gamma Phi Beta. After school, she moved to Galesburg for her first teaching job. It was there she met the love of her life, Paul Joseph Huels. They married on June 11, 1977. Jill spent many years as a strong, faithful caretaker to her loving husband until his passing five years ago. They had been married for 38 years.

Jill was an elementary school teacher for the Galesburg School System for over 30 years. Teaching primarily 3rd graders, Jill had a passion for education and a true gift with children. She took great ownership in making learning fun while also truly loving and caring for the hundreds of children that entered her classrooms over the years.

Jill is survived by her children, Matthew P. Huels and his wife, Nicole who reside in Oak Park, IL, with their three kids, Wynne, Cormac, and Joseph; and Meghann E. Dials and her husband, Joshua who live in Indianapolis, IN, with their kids, Penelope and Hugo. She was the best "Grammy" to her five grandchildren, known for her silly songs, funny voices, and for telling everyone around her how perfect her grandkids were. To her own children, she was magic. She is also survived by her two brothers, Jeffrey Trawick-Smith, his

wife Nancy, and nephews Benjamin and Joseph; and Matthew Smith and his wife, Kim.

Jill will be remembered as a friend, a teacher, a mother, a grandmother, a wife, a feminist, and as a proud blue dot in a red state.

There will be a memorial service for Jill's friends and loved ones at 1:00 p.m. CST on November 20, 2021 at Watson-Thomas Funeral Home, 1849 N. Seminary St., Galesburg, IL 61401. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The New Teacher Project, TNTP, Inc., 500 7th Avenue, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Final care and arrangements are entrusted to Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

NOV **20**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Watson Thomas Funeral Home  
1849 North Seminary Street  
Galesburg, IL 61401

# Tribute Wall



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jill Meredith Huels.*



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November 18, 2021 at 10:57 PM



“ *I was heart sick to hear of your Mom's passing, Matt and Maggie. Whenever I think of your Mom, smiles, sunshine, positivity, graciousness, and cheer fill my head. We were all so blessed to know her. May God bless you and comfort your as you bear your loss.*

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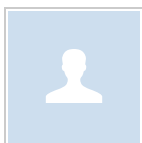
**Julie Wiegand** - November 11, 2021 at 04:42 PM



“ *Our deepest sympathy to Matt, Meggie, and grandchildren. Since we were Beecher Street neighbors, we will always remember conversations about school and raising children with your mother. Her laughter and infectious smile were wonderful! Kathy & Marquis Berrey*

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**Kathy Berrey** - November 11, 2021 at 11:44 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jill Meredith Huels.*



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November 10, 2021 at 05:49 PM

KL

“ I was lucky enough to have Mrs. Huels in 3rd grade at Lincoln Elementary. I can still remember her laugh, her smiling eyes and elegance, the voices she used when reading aloud books daily, and how special she made every student feel. It is funny because not every elementary teacher has gifted me this many, significant and vivid memories. I found out later in my 20s that she sent my parents a handwritten card describing my special attributes. My parents kept this card and sometimes I wonder if she did this for all of her students! Eventually, I grew up to be a teacher too (special educator mostly with 8th graders) and wrote many cards to parents and students, used silly and animated voices when reading aloud daily...even if it was math class, and made sure to notice all things special about my students. It is not every day you meet someone like Mrs. Huels, but if you do, you can absolutely consider yourself the luckiest. While hearing of her passing steals my breath, I can still smile through her memory.

Katie Didway LaVoie - November 10, 2021 at 03:06 PM

ER

“ Erika Radich purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Jill Meredith Huels.



Erika Radich - November 09, 2021 at 09:52 AM




“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Jill Meredith Huels.



November 09, 2021 at 09:06 AM

KN

“ Jill was a very dear friend of mine in the Gamma Phi house. She taught me Bible stories, dressed in costume and visited fraternities in lieu of studying for finals, and kept me laughing with her self-deprecating stories of childhood. She is one of my fondest memories of college and I will remember her always. “Jillsworth”. 

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**Kristen Nassif** - November 08, 2021 at 07:18 PM

JM

“ Seeing Jill’s smiling face makes the sound of her laugh return to my ears and our days at the Gamma Phi Beta house at Iowa State University. She was a delight. My condolences to you.  
Janelle Votroubek McClain

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**janelle mcclain** - November 08, 2021 at 07:15 PM