



Cheryl Lea Drake

August 12, 1952 - May 12, 2025

Princeton - Cheryl L. Drake, 72, of Princeton, Illinois, passed away peacefully on Monday, May 12, 2025, at Alure of Walnut, surrounded by her loving husband Doug of 46 years.

Born on August 12, 1952, in Princeton, IL, she was the daughter of the late John L. and Joanne (Haley) Taylor. Cheryl was a proud graduate of Illinois State University, where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in 1974. A true Redbird at heart, Cheryl's passion for education and leadership began early and continued throughout her life.

On March 17, 1979, she married the love of her life, Douglas L. Drake. Together, they built a life rooted in love, commitment, and community.

Cheryl dedicated her professional life to teaching and later served as a respected supervisor at LCN Door Closers, where her 35+ years of service earned her the admiration and respect of all who worked alongside her. She was a natural leader who led by example-whether in the classroom, on the field, or in the workplace.

An active member of the Princeton Women's Bowling Association, Cheryl enjoyed a wide range of activities, including softball (as a catcher), bicycling, bowling, and cruising to Aruba. She especially treasured trips to Colorado to

spend time with her beloved nieces and nephews.

After a long and courageous battle with dementia, we lost not only a teacher and a coach but also a dear friend. Cheryl was known for her strength, warmth, and many talents. Her legacy is one of quiet leadership, heartfelt encouragement, and unwavering dedication.

She is survived by her husband of 46 years, Douglas L. Drake of Princeton; her brother, J. Bradley Taylor; sister-in-law, Patty Taylor; nephew, Zachory Taylor; niece, Emily Wolfe; as well as numerous cousins, extended family members, and friends.

Preceded in death by her parents, John and JoAnne Taylor, and her grandmother, Margaret Haley.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Alzheimer's Association in Cheryl's honor.

A visitation will be held on Monday, May 19, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Norberg Memorial Home, Inc. & Monuments, 701 E Thompson Street, Princeton, IL.

Funeral Services to follow at 12:00 p.m., officiated by Pastor Darren Jones, with music provided by organist Charles Geebeck. Private graveside services to be held at a later date.

Online condolences may be shared at www.norbergfh.com.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Norberg Memorial Home, Inc. & Monuments.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 19. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Norberg Memorial Home, Inc.
701 E. Thompson Street
Princeton, IL 61356

Funeral Service

MAY 19. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Norberg Memorial Home, Inc.
701 E. Thompson Street
Princeton, IL 61356

Tribute Wall

DF

“*Doug: I'm sorry for being unaware of Cheryl's passing. Sounds as though she had a difficult journey at the end. Again, sorry for your loss.*

Dale Fiste - May 24, 2025 at 11:57 AM

PJ

“*Pamela J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Cheryl Lea Drake.*

Pamela J. - May 19, 2025 at 10:37 AM

PM

“*I want to offer my deepest condolences to Doug, Brad, Patti and the rest of the family for your loss. Cheryl was quite a person to be around. In our younger years we had alot of fun. Played softball w/ her, went to a cubs game w/ her and the rest of the team. She was a wonderful person and will be greatly missed.*

Pat Mark - May 18, 2025 at 12:40 PM

SU

“*All through school Cheryl and I would always kid each other about both being born on August 12, 1952. Condolences to her family.*

Sally Urbanski - May 17, 2025 at 03:44 PM

SA

“*Sam A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Cheryl Lea Drake.*

Sam A. - May 16, 2025 at 08:54 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Cheryl Lea Drake.

May 16, 2025 at 04:35 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Cheryl Lea Drake.



May 16, 2025 at 04:35 PM