



Jean Ellen Zimmermann

February 20, 1945 - July 20, 2025

Jean Ellen Zimmermann, age 80, passed away peacefully on Sunday, July 20, 2025. Born on February 20, 1945, she was the daughter of the late William Harlan Coop and Mary Louise Grammer, and the wife of the late James Zimmermann.

Jean led a remarkable and purpose-driven life. With an unwavering work ethic and sharp mind, she devoted 42 years of service to Barnes & Noble. But perhaps her greatest legacy lies in the martial arts community. She, along with her late husband James, founded the Zimmermann Karate School—a business they passionately operated for over five decades, empowering generations with discipline, confidence, and resilience.

Jean was a woman of strength and deep independence. She loved fiercely, especially her beloved dog Brody, whom she treated like her own child. Her faith was also an important part of her life, and she deeply cherished her church family at Riverside Church of Christ.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Jean was a devoted friend and mentor to many in her small community. Her wisdom, kindness, and steady presence left a lasting impression on all who knew her.

She is survived by her special sister-in-law, Darlene Coop; nieces Bonnie

(Toby) Coop McCrary and Vickie Coop; great-nieces Ronda (Dexter) Tiller Brown, Rachel Tiller Owen, and Cortni (Mike) Tiller Hensley; great-nephew Matt (Chasity) Tiller; and numerous great-great-nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death, in addition to her parents and husband, by her niece Sherry Zimmermann; brothers Thomas Lewis, Harlan Wayne, and William Terry Coop; and her sister Charlotte Zimmermann.

Visitation with the family will be held on Wednesday, July 23, from 4:30 PM to 8:00 PM at McDonald Funeral Home in Hohenwald, TN. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, July 24, beginning at 2:00 PM at McDonald Funeral Home, with burial to follow in the Lewis County Memorial Gardens.

McDonald Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Zimmerman family.

Cemetery Details

Lewis County Memorial Gardens

1014 Summertown Hwy
Hohenwald, TN 38462

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 23. 4:30 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

McDonald Funeral Home, Inc. - Lewis County
20 West 2nd Avenue
Hohenwald, TN 38462
(931) 796-2207

Funeral Service

JUL 24. 2:00 PM (CT)

McDonald Funeral Home, Inc. - Lewis County
20 West 2nd Avenue
Hohenwald, TN 38462
(931) 796-2207

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs Z was an amazing teacher and mentor. I'm sorry to see I missed the service. Condolences to her family and friends.* ”



Angel Shelton - July 25, 2025 at 05:49 PM

BT

“ *Mrs Z was a major force in our Wado Ryu organization. She was such a sweet lady and a warrior to the end. I will miss her energy at our future events. Bill Taylor* ”

Bill Taylor - July 24, 2025 at 07:39 PM

SF

“ *Mrs. Z will always be special to me. She has had a tremendous impact on my life.* ”

Steve Fall - July 24, 2025 at 11:49 AM

MB

“ *MICHAEL BATES sent a virtual gift in memory of Jean Ellen Zimmermann* ”



MICHAEL BATES - July 23, 2025 at 06:51 AM

RG

“ Ronald Gammons lit a candle in memory of Jean Ellen Zimmermann



Ronald Gammons - July 22, 2025 at 11:18 AM

LH

“ Larry & Glenda Hammack lit a candle in memory of Jean Ellen Zimmermann



Larry & Glenda Hammack - July 22, 2025 at 08:54 AM

MF

“ So sorry to hear about Mrs. Z's passing. There's not much I can add to all the good things that have been said about her. She was a truly wonderful person and an absolutely steadfast friend. She is undoubtedly reunited with Mr. Z now. May they both rest in peace and love. 💔

Michael Eric Fall - July 21, 2025 at 11:10 PM

PW

“ Jean Ellen was a special classmate and friend who will be missed by all of us in the Lewis County High School Class of 1963. Lifelong friends are the best.

Paula Gail Williams - July 21, 2025 at 10:40 PM



“ Was a great lady always enjoyed having her teach me karate



Sandi Westover - July 21, 2025 at 09:03 PM



“ I had known the Zimmerman's since I was a teenager. They used to come to visit & Jean would visit while my dad (Sensei Patterson) would talk business with Mr.Z as we called James. They were so much fun. Jean Ellen was one of the kindest person I had known. She was funny, as who could'nt being around Mr. Z. I will miss her immensely but I can just visualize James waiting at the pearly gates with arms wide open. She no longer suffers!!

Victoria (Patterson) Leyk - July 21, 2025 at 08:22 PM



“ Victoria (Patterson) Leyk lit a candle in memory of Jean Ellen Zimmermann



Victoria (Patterson) Leyk - July 21, 2025 at 08:15 PM



“ What a kind, sweet, inspirational person. She invested in so many. She earned extra stars in her crown. Godspeed, Mrs. Z. Rest easy

Aimee Tackett - July 21, 2025 at 08:08 PM

RM

“ *Ramona Meredith lit a candle in memory of
Jean Ellen Zimmermann*



Ramona Meredith - July 21, 2025 at 07:11 PM