



## Melissa Rae Ruckman

August 22, 1963 - November 5, 2021

Melissa Rae Ruckman, 58, of Huntington, passed away at 1:30 pm Friday, November 5, 2021 at Oakbrook Village /Envive Nursing Home of Huntington.

Melissa was born on August 22, 1963 in Columbia City, IN, the daughter of Royce Ruckman and Janice (Dunfee) Ruckman. She was one of God's special angels born with Down's Syndrome along with a "can do" spirit and zest for life. She lived in Huntington for 57 years and graduated from Huntington North High School with the class of 1981. She attended Pathfinder Day Services and worked at Ken Koat factory for many years. In 2005 she began living in a group home ran by Pathfinder Services. Melissa participated in swimming and ballroom dancing through Special Olympics. She enjoyed bowling and was ready to travel whenever the opportunity arose. The highlight of her summer was attending horse camp. She was always ready to tackle something new. Melissa loved the adventure of family vacations, going out for dinner, and celebrating birthdays.

Melissa is survived by her loving parents, Royce L. Ruckman and Janice J. Ruckman of Huntington, brother, Mark A. Ruckman of Dallas, TX, sister, Christy S. Ruckman of Huntington, two nieces, Amanda Ditzler of Fort Wayne, Sara Cerullo-Knowles of Kansas City, nephew, Gunnar Ruckman of Dallas, several aunts and uncles and all the special people who cared for Melissa over the years that were like family.

Visitation will be from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm Monday, November 22, 2021 at Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 West Park Drive, Huntington, IN. Funeral services will be held at 3:00 pm Monday, November 22, 2021 at Bailey-Love Mortuary with Brooks Fetters officiating.

Preferred memorials to the Pathfinder Services Inc, in care of Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 West Park Drive, Huntington, IN, 46750.

Please sign the online guest book at [www.baileylove.com](http://www.baileylove.com).

Bailey-Love Mortuary is honored to serve the family of Melissa R. Ruckman.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **22**. 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary  
35 West Park Drive  
Huntington, IN 46750  
(260) 356-1710  
wecare@baileylove.com  
<https://www.baileylove.com>

## Service

NOV **22**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary  
35 West Park Drive  
Huntington, IN 46750  
(260) 356-1710  
wecare@baileylove.com  
<https://www.baileylove.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Bailey-Love Mortuary has created this video tribute in memory of Melissa.* ”



Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary - November 18, 2021 at 12:25 PM

CK

“ *I am so sorry to hear Melissa passed. She was a sweet neighbor and always had a smile and loved to stop and chat with Dad, Mom, or me.* ”

Connie Kruzan - April 13, 2022 at 05:34 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Melissa Rae Ruckman.* ”



November 19, 2021 at 08:18 PM

KZ

“ *Kay Zeller lit a candle in memory of Melissa Rae Ruckman* ”



Kay Zeller - November 17, 2021 at 08:22 AM

KZ

“ *Kay Zeller lit a candle in memory of Melissa Rae Ruckman*



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**Kay Zeller** - November 17, 2021 at 08:20 AM

MM

“ *Royce and Janice,*

*So sad to hear this news. Melissa was a kind soul. Getting to spend time with her during our early years in Huntington is a treasured memory.*

*With sympathy,*

*Maggie Myers*

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**Maggie Myers** - November 16, 2021 at 10:46 AM

AB

“ *She was my girl, I took care of her at Oakbrook she made everyday brighter. I loved it when one of us girls messed up doing anything, she would tell us are u serious. We always had fun dancing and singing.*

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**Ashley Brown** - November 15, 2021 at 07:25 PM

BW

“ Royce and Janice,

*Kathy and I send our love to you at this moment in your life together. There is nothing better than the love of family and friends to provide comfort in the loss of a child. May you experience this now and for the days to come. We are honored to participate in holding you and your family up to God, our Father.*

*Love,*

*Kathy and Brent Williams*

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**Brent and Kathy Williams** - November 12, 2021 at 10:16 AM

MG

“ *Thinking of Melissa brings back such pleasant memories. She was a delight and I loved her spirit. I respected the love and support she received from her family. I am sure she will be missed by her friends. She was very young during our time together but I did keep track of her over the years and was so proud of her accomplishments. Wear those Angel Wings proudly, Melissa.*

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**Marie Gerrard** - November 11, 2021 at 10:48 PM

PW

“ *Peggy Wells lit a candle in memory of Melissa Rae Ruckman*



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**Peggy Wells** - November 11, 2021 at 05:58 PM

RF

“ Roger Studebaker family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Melissa Rae Ruckman.



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**Roger Studebaker family** - November 11, 2021 at 05:43 PM