

JULIA ANN LaFOLLETTE, 59, of South Bend, passed away at her home Sunday, April 25, 2004, after a long battle with lung disease. Julie was born Jan. 14, 1945, in Adams County Hospital in Decatur, the daughter of James E. and Ruth E. (Montgomery) Sprunger, who preceded her in death. Julie was a 1963 graduate of Berne-French High School and continued her education at Ball State University in Muncie, and University of Notre Dame, where she was a Web Communications Support Specialist for the past three and a half years. She had previously held a similar position at Crown International and had taught at Lakeland High School in LaGrange.

Julie had a unique passion and creativity that she shared with those she knew. Before moving to South Bend from Dunlap (near Elkhart) in October 2002, Julie maintained a habitat for one of her greatest passions, bluebirds, which came from a love and reverence for nature. She was a photographer of great talent and beautifully captured many images of nature, her pets and the Notre Dame campus. She loved music, especially "mellow jazz," and deeply loved her family. She also wrote beautiful, sensitive poetry.

Julie was survived by her three sons, Benjamin LaFollette and his wife, Loree, of Elkhart, Bradley LaFollette of Indianapolis, and Bryan LaFollette and Kelly Wheelan of Valparaiso; brother, James "Fritz" Sprunger; and sister, Rebecca J. Sprunger, both of Berne. Funeral service was 1 p.m. Friday, April 30, at the First Mennonite Church Chapel, in Berne, with visitation from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Yager Kirchofer Funeral Home, 365 W. Main St., in Berne. Visitation was also from 3 to 6 p.m. Thursday, April 29, at McGann Funeral Home, 2313 E. Edison Road, in South Bend. Memorial contributions were to the American Lung Association.

Contributed by Michael Walter (no source listed)

News-Sentinel, The (Fort Wayne, IN) - Wednesday, April 28, 2004

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those she knew. Before moving to South Bend from Elkhart in October of 2002, Julie maintained a habitat for one of her greatest passions, bluebirds, which came from a love and reverence for nature. She also loved music and shared a deep love for her family. Julie is survived by her three sons, Benjamin LaFollette and his wife, Loree, of Elkhart, Bradley LaFollette of Indianapolis, and Bryan LaFollette and Kelly Wheelan of Valparaiso; brother, James "Fritz" Sprunger; and sister, Rebecca J. Sprunger, both of Berne. Funeral service is 1 p.m. Friday at the First Mennonite Church Chapel, in Berne, with visitation from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Yager Kirchhofer Funeral Home, 365 W. Main St., in Berne. Visitation is also from 3 to 6 p.m. Thursday at McGann Funeral Home, 2313 E. Edison Road, in South Bend. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Lung Association, 802 W. Wayne St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802-3996.