

This morning we are gathered here to honor the memory of Jackie Kietzman: mother, aunt, grandmother, great-grandmother ... and friend.

She worked at Michigan Bell in Saginaw, and was an accounting clerk for 34 years, and was a member of the Telephone Pioneers – the world's largest group of industry-specific employees and retirees dedicated to community service.

Her hobbies included playing cards, going to the casino, bowling, and playing golf. Yet her greatest joy was spending time with her grandchildren.

Jackie was born in 1933, an era similar to our own – yet also very different.

That year, construction began on the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

The Lone Ranger debuted on radio.

Prohibition ended after 13 years without legal alcohol sales in the US.

Mount Rushmore was dedicated in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt is inaugurated as the 32nd President of the US. At his inauguration, he gives his famous speech saying “we have nothing to fear but fear itself.” A week later, he begins his series of on-the-air fireside chats on the radio.

In the midst of the Great Depression, FDR issues an executive order making it illegal to own substantial amounts of gold, and Congress takes the US Dollar off of the gold standard.

Military and political moves in Europe and Asia would eventually lead to the Second World War, six years later.

In Chicago, the first Major League Baseball game is played in Comisky Park.

Alcatraz Island is acquired by the Bureau of Prisons from the Army and converted to a Federal penitentiary.

The first Krispy Kreme doughnut store opened that year in Nashville, Tennessee.

Nissan Motor Company is organized in Tokyo, Japan.

Frequency Modulated Radio – FM Radio – is patented.

Many things that year seem like history; others are still with us. Time rolls on ... life changes ... people change ... sometimes it seems the more things change, the more they stay the same.

You are all here because you knew Jackie – but even more so, you are here because you loved her. And the ties that bind us in this life are not severed in death.

So let us accompany Jackie with our prayers. As she begins this final journey from this world to the next.

Eternal rest ...