



## Joan E. Stephenson

December 6, 1944 - May 3, 2021

Joan Ellen Stephenson, age 76, passed away peacefully May 3, 2021 due to a rare form of liver disease in Sayner, WI, formally of Seneca, WI. She was born December 6th, 1944 in Park Ridge, Illinois to Earl and Ruth Beard. She met the love of her life at Illinois State University and married, Larry Eugene Stephenson, on August 13, 1966.

Joan received a teaching degree from Illinois State University and a master's degree from UW LaCrosse. Joan was a teacher for many years. She was an English, reading, and special education teacher. Over the years, she helped many students and she really enjoyed helping each of her students better themselves.

Joan was a very caring, generous and thoughtful person who looked for the best in everyone. She enjoyed family vacations and collecting seashells on the beach. Joan's love of nature was one of a kind. She loved all the animals of her forest. She fed all of them except the fisher (Dark Vander). She had a name and special place in her heart for each of them: 3 paws, growler, Bruno and her little buddy the pine squirrel will miss her.

Joan is survived by her loving husband of 54 years, Larry. Much loved mother of Susan (John) Dyke and David (Julie) Stephenson. Cherished grandmother of John, Christopher, Jessica, Andrew, and Daniel. She is survived by her

dear sister, Marilyn Hurbanis and brother-in-law, Chuck (Karen) Stephenson. Remembered by her many nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents, Earl and Ruth Beard, brother and sister-in-law, Richard (Barb) Beard and father and mother-in-law, Vincent (Evelyn) Stephenson and brother and sister-in-law, Robert (Karen) Stephenson.

Joan loved eagles and one of her favorite Bible verses, Isaiah 40:31 — “But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

Please join us celebrating her life, starting with visitation May 15, 2021 from 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM at Shepherd of Lakes, 2903 Highway 155 Sayner, WI 54560. The service will follow at 2:00 PM and committal will be at Sayner, WI cemetery. Online condolences may be shared at [www.bolgerfuneral.com](http://www.bolgerfuneral.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Sayner Cemetery

Sayner, WI 54560

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 15. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church  
2903 STH 155  
Sayner, WI 54560  
<http://www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org/>

## Funeral Service

MAY 15. 2:00 PM (CT)

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church  
2903 STH 155  
Sayner, WI 54560  
<http://www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org/>

# Tribute Wall

JD

“ Jessica Dyke lit a candle in memory of Joan E. Stephenson



Jessica Dyke - May 14, 2021 at 12:56 AM

JD

“ Jessica Dyke sent a virtual gift in memory of Joan E. Stephenson



Jessica Dyke - May 14, 2021 at 12:55 AM

JD

“ Jessica Dyke sent a virtual gift in memory of Joan E. Stephenson



Jessica Dyke - May 14, 2021 at 12:54 AM

JD

“ Jessica Dyke lit a candle in memory of Joan E. Stephenson



Jessica Dyke - May 14, 2021 at 12:50 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joan E. Stephenson.*



May 13, 2021 at 08:12 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Joan E. Stephenson.*



May 12, 2021 at 11:38 AM



“ *Our deepest sympathy to Larry, Susie, David and families and Lyn Hurbanis and all nieces & nephews. Joanie you have always held a special place in my heart these past 62 years for your kindness and dedication to family and Jesus. You are now with your Mom & Dad, brother Dick and Barbi. Also your Grandma & Holger Rest In Peace Much love Bob & Ann Hurbanis*

**Bob Hurbanis** - May 11, 2021 at 10:49 PM



“ *Philip Tonne and family. purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Joan E. Stephenson.*



**Philip Tonne and family.** - May 11, 2021 at 07:59 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joan E. Stephenson.*



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May 11, 2021 at 11:55 AM



“ *While my associations with Joan were somewhat infrequent, I always admired her and the wonderful support she provided for Larry. I worked at UW-Richland and so would often have a chance to interact with Larry both at Seneca and when he visited on campus. I saw her obituary in the State Journal today and it brought back many good memories. Sincere sympathy to you, Larry, and to your family.*

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**John Poole** - May 11, 2021 at 10:57 AM



“ *Larry, Susie and David:*

*I am so sorry to hear of Joan's death. Joan was a very special lady. I had the privilege of getting to know Joan on a personal level as well as a teacher since I assisted Joan and Larry with babysitting and housecleaning as a teenager. My deepest sympathy to all of you and your families. I trust that your wonderful memories will sustain you during these most difficult times.*

*Sincerely,*

*Sue (Allan) Olson*

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**Sue Olson** - May 11, 2021 at 08:16 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joan E. Stephenson.*



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May 10, 2021 at 01:37 PM



“ *My deepest sympathies to Larry, David, Susan, and families. Larry and I worked together at Seneca and spent many hours in the car going from one union meeting to another. Lots of laughter and good conversations. No finer people on earth than Joan and Larry.*

*Kay Messling*

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**Kay Messling** - May 08, 2021 at 07:20 PM



“ *I went to School at Seneca and Larry was my guidance counselor. Joan always had a smile and kind words. She was a true gem, my sympathy to Larry, Susan, David and families.*

*Natalie (Varo) Freymiller*

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**Natalie (Varo) Freymiller** - May 08, 2021 at 11:27 AM

MA

“ Dear Larry, Susan, Dave, & Families,

*Very sorry to hear of your loss. I hope you find peace at this time.  
We are all thinking of you. God Bless.*

*Sincerely,*

*Merlin Ames*

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**Merlin Ames** - May 07, 2021 at 04:59 PM

JA

“ *Sweet Joan.... so kind, soft spoken, loving, caring! What a special wife she was to Larry, a wonderful mother, and friend. The Bible verse she loved truly applied to her; her strength was renewed in God. She will be so greatly missed and my heart goes out to all who mourn her loss. My love to all the family with my prayers that the peace of God will rule in your hearts through these sad times.....*

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**Judy Aspenson** - May 07, 2021 at 10:07 AM

NO

“ *Joan was a dear, sweet person...We send our deepest sympathy to all of her family and friends. I remember Joan and Larry walking arm and arm by our home after the day at school....*

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**Nancy Ostrander** - May 06, 2021 at 10:34 PM

DK

“ We are so sorry to hear about Joan's passing. When we lived in Prairie du Chien, and taught in Seneca, Joan and Larry became one of our best friends. Joan was always so kind and caring. Some of the memories are: When Joan was in the hospital giving birth, we would go over to their house and feed the dogs, even though at that time Devie was afraid of dogs. Many times we would go out for dinner and try the various restaurants in the area. Joan and Larry would get new Ford station wagons in yellow. Many times we have thought about how Joan and Larry were so welcoming to a newlywed couple. Our deepest sympathy to Larry and family.

*Devie and Jeff Koval*

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**Devie and Jeffrey Koval** - May 06, 2021 at 09:57 PM

AB

“ My sympathy to Larry and the rest of her family. She was truly loved by her students, faculty and those who were privileged to know her - she and Larry were the very best of neighbors and I was devastated when they moved away.

*Annette, Patrick and Tim Biggin*

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**Annette L. Biggin** - May 06, 2021 at 08:53 PM

SC

“ Heaven has truly gained another angel. I can honestly say she was one of the most kind, patient and compassionate people I have ever had the pleasure to know. The world would be a better place if there were more people like Joan. Deepest sympathies to Larry, Susie, David and all the family. We are all better people for having Joan as a part of our lives.

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**Sandy Connors** - May 06, 2021 at 05:14 PM

DY

“ I loved working with Joan at Seneca. She was always a kind face to greet people at work. She also left me many valuable resources to use with students when she retired. My sympathies to Larry, Susan, and David. It was my honor wo work with such a kind soul!

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**Diane Yager** - May 06, 2021 at 10:46 AM