



Joyce A. VanDusen

May 16, 1940 - September 25, 2022

Joyce VanDusen, a long-time resident of Towanda, Pennsylvania, died peacefully on September 25, 2022. She was born on May 16, 1940 to the late Daniel VanDusen (father) and Bessie (Potter) VanDusen (mother).

Joyce is survived by her devoted friend, Mary O'Connor of Towanda, PA; cousin, Dolores Vassalo and Dolores's daughters Monique Webber (Godchild) and Michelle Allio; her additional Godchildren Megan (Benjamin) Jackson and Ryan Funk; close friends including the families of the late Steven Dean Benjamin and Irvine Benjamin of Towanda, PA; along with many adored friends, cousins, and surrogate nieces and nephews.

Joyce grew up in Towanda, Pennsylvania and graduated with the Towanda High School Class of 1958. She graduated with her Bachelor's in Elementary Education at Mansfield University in 1962, her Master's Degree in Elementary Education at Elmira College in 1969, and her Principal's Certificate at Penn State University in 1971.

Starting in September 1962, she served as a teacher at the Towanda Area School District. Then, she became the elementary principal where she served until her retirement in August 1995. Her professional and social organizations included the Alpha Zeta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma and the Pennsylvania Association of Retired School Personnel (PASR). Honors she received included Volunteer of the Year from the Bradford-Sullivan Chapter of PASR and President of the Bradford-Sullivan Chapter of PASR.

She was an active member of the French Asylum United Methodist Church

where she served as the Sunday School Superintendent, choir member, United Methodist Women member, and various administrative positions at the church throughout the years. She also served in several roles in the United Methodist District. Her strong Christian faith radiated from her actions and love for those around her.

Joyce was a strong, independent woman who set an example to those who were fortunate enough to meet her along her path. She was loving and generous. Throughout the years, Joyce enjoyed playing cards, attending family picnics, grabbing coffee and lunch with friends, bowling, and spending time with her canine friends. Her other activities included Towanda Business & Professional Women's Association, Towanda Gun Club member, and Bradford County Outboard Motor Club member.

She will be missed by family, friends, and neighbors.

A Memorial Service will be held at French Asylum United Methodist Church (Towanda, PA) on Sunday, October 2, 2022 at 2:30 p.m..

Gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in Joyce's memory to the Bradford County Humane Society, Guthrie Hospice, and the French Asylum United Methodist Church where Joyce was a longstanding, committed member.

Memories and condolences may be expressed by visiting www.bowenfuneralhomes.com.

Cemetery Details

French Asylum Cemetery

French Asylum Road
Towanda, PA 18848

Previous Events

Service

OCT 2. 2:30 PM (ET)

French Asylum United Methodist Church
French Asylum Road
Towanda, PA 18848

Tribute Wall



“ *Joyce A. VanDusen*

October 22, 2023 at 08:10 PM



“ *Joyce A. VanDusen*

October 08, 2023 at 10:34 PM



“ *Joyce A. VanDusen*

October 06, 2023 at 09:57 AM



“ *Joyce A. VanDusen*

October 06, 2023 at 03:29 AM



“ *Joyce A. VanDusen*

October 05, 2023 at 02:02 PM



“ *Joyce was my 3rd grade teacher. I was struggling and she pulled me aside and said, "I know you can do this." It was probably the first time someone really said that to me about school.*

Mark Daly - April 29, 2023 at 08:24 PM

KA

“Joyce's Aunt Lillian and my Grandmother were great friends. Joyce was a very pleasant lady and loved by many. She hired me for my first job as a secretary for the elementary school.

Kevin and Sally Allis - October 24, 2022 at 11:47 AM

DH

“I was very sad to learn of Joyce's passing. She was a longtime family friend, attending many family gatherings with our family. My dad often served as her handyman. My mom and I taught under her guidance as principal in the Towanda Area Elementary Schools. Joyce was always caring and happy to help out my parents in their later years. My condolences to all her loved ones. She will be missed. Deb Hartman

Deb Hartman - October 17, 2022 at 11:54 AM

BU

“RIP, Joyce! She was an inspiration for her dedicated devotion to her job, her teachers, and her children. After her retirement, I worked with her for many years on the board of PASR, where she worked unceasingly for the good of all the retired members of the local, regional, and state chapters. I could always count on Joyce. My deepest sympathy to all her family and friends, especially Mary.



Barbara Ulatowski - October 09, 2022 at 05:17 PM

NO

“I am so sorry for your loss.

Norma - October 05, 2022 at 04:30 PM

JB

“Joyce was my second cousin on my Mom's side. I can recall some of the VanDusen reunions in the late 50s and 60s with Joyce in attendance. Always had a great sense of humor and humility. She will be missed in the community and our hearts. Jim Baker, Oklahoma City

Jim Baker - October 05, 2022 at 04:17 PM

MW

“so sorry for her passing, always enjoyed chats on North Main St. She was a good Principal at Mulberry! Margaret Daly Warfle

Margaret Daly Warfle - September 30, 2022 at 08:08 PM

LW

“Please accept my deepest condolences and may her kind soul Rest In Peace. LeeAnn Wolfe

LeeAnn C. Wolfe - September 27, 2022 at 06:37 PM

TA

“I was saddened to read of Joyce's passing. Joyce offered me my first teaching job in 1972. She was a great boss. When I left teaching, I played Santa for the pre-schoolers and kindergartners. I would spend the whole day with Joyce as we drove all over the school district together. I think I did it for almost 30 years. It's some of my favorite memories. She certainly made her mark on the Towanda School District and our community. It is an excellent picture of her in her obituary. Joyce's friends and family are in my prayers.

Tom Abell - September 27, 2022 at 04:11 PM

DK

“ You will truly be missed. God Bless the friends and family you left behind

David Kissell - September 27, 2022 at 10:18 AM

MS

“ Joyce was a special lady. She was my first principal while I taught in the Towanda School District. There are hundreds of wonderful memories of her. Joyce loved to laugh and she was a thoughtful and caring mentor. I was saddened to hear of her passing. My sincere condolences to all of Joyce's loved ones.

Marcie Shinn - September 27, 2022 at 09:06 AM

AB

“ Joyce was a great person, a wonderful boss, and a dear friend. Her love of the Lord showed in her care and compassion for people. Our thoughts and prayers are with others who loved her. God's Blessings, Sherm and Ann Barnes

Ann Barnes - September 27, 2022 at 08:29 AM

BM

“ Carol and I would like to offer our Condolences for Joyce's passing.
Sincerely,
Bob McNamara
PASR Region 3

Bob McNamara - September 26, 2022 at 05:19 PM



“ *My Deepest Sympathies & Prayers To All Of You. She was a wonderful woman and did so much for the community. She was my children’s Principal. May She Rest in Heaven*



Marie Platt Post - September 26, 2022 at 02:14 PM

CS

“ *Joyce was like a sister to me. She took me bowling once and I threw the ball backwards. Nothing bothered her which showed also in the driving lessons she gave me. Joyce would go to the movies and never failed to fall asleep before it ended. She was my boss and I remember helping her to stack books in the summer when preparing for a new school year. She opened her apartment to Nelson and me when the sewer in our apartment backed up. She was just always there. She and Mary always loved coming to the house for New Year's Eve to play cards and eat homemade pizza. She and Mom hauled tons of food to French Azilum to feed groups stopping by. She was a positive force to come to the aid of all. Rest in peace and know you were loved.*



Catherine and Nelson Silverstrim - September 26, 2022 at 12:41 PM

JS

Joyce and I went to school together, we both lived in Durell, she was a very nice person, always kind to everyone? all who knew her will miss her.

johnnie Smiley - September 27, 2022 at 10:11 AM