



Joyce Alberta Harris

July 20, 1932 - May 17, 2026

Barneveld / Blue Mounds – Joyce Alberta Harris, 93, of rural Barneveld, passed away on Sunday, May 17th, 2026 at her home.

Born on July 20, 1932, to Charles H. and Eunice (Howard) Yeager, Joyce grew up on the farm in Iowa County, where she developed a deep appreciation for family, hard work, and rural life. She and her sisters, Ruth Jungbluth, Donna Ralph, and Mary Jane Rideout, shared a remarkable bond and a sharp intellect, with each graduating at the top of their class. Joyce remained incredibly close with her sisters throughout her entire life.

On September 6, 1950, Joyce married the love of her life, William S. "Bill" Harris, at the First United Methodist Church in Mineral Point. Together, they shared a wonderful marriage that spanned more than 62 years. In 1990, they purchased a farm in the rural Blue Mounds/Barneveld area, building their dream home there in 1995. Joyce adored Bill and cherished every moment of life with him—surrounded by the peace of the outdoors, their animals, and the many trees they planted together—until his passing in 2013.

After entering the credit union industry in 1971, she became President and CEO of Madison Telco Credit Union in 1978, leading its transformation into Heartland Credit Union. During her 23 years leading Heartland, she guided the organization through tremendous growth, expanding its reach to multiple

branches and serving tens of thousands of members throughout southwestern Wisconsin. Joyce was the first and only woman to serve as Chairperson of the Wisconsin Credit Union League, was inducted into the CUES Hall of Fame, and even served on the Federal Reserve Board's Consumer Advisory Council, advising the likes of Chairman Alan Greenspan. Through it all, her graciousness shone bright as she mentored countless colleagues who became lifelong friends.

Following her retirement on June 30, 2001, Joyce focused on enjoying the outdoors, tending the farm with her husband Bill, and spending time with her sisters, nieces, nephews, and extended family. An avid and incredibly talented gardener, Joyce inherited her green thumb from her mother. Whether she was tending to her vibrant gardens and pond, feeding the birds, or just spending time outdoors, Joyce found her greatest joy in the simple, beautiful moments of life outside. In her later years, she enjoyed spending time with her sweet cat, Callie.

Her farm was a magical getaway for her nieces and nephews, who loved exploring the barns and helping Joyce and Bill with the farm cats, dogs, and ponies. Joyce loved gathering her family and hosted the family Easter celebration every year, creating a cherished yearly tradition.

Joyce is preceded in death by her husband Bill, her parents, two sisters, Donna and Ruth, brother-in-law Walter "Bud" Harris, and sisters-in-law, Patricia Prinslow, Barbara Romero and Rose Lee Dunbar.

Joyce is survived by her sister, Mary Jane Rideout of Mineral Point, and sister-in-law, Debbie Bourgholtzer.

Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 11:00 AM at the FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH in Mineral Point. Pastor Lorri

McGranahan will officiate. Burial will be in Graceland Cemetery. A visitation will be held on Thursday from 9:00 AM until 10:50 AM at the church.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Florence, Jane, Tammy, and many special people who helped care for Joyce at her home. Your kindness, love, and support meant the world to Joyce and her family.

Cemetery Details

Graceland Cemetery

800 Fair Street
Mineral Point, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 21. 9:00 AM - 10:50 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
400 Doty Street
Mineral Point, WI 53565

Service

MAY 21. 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
400 Doty Street
Mineral Point, WI 53565

Tribute Wall

RO

“ There are simply too, too many stories.

Her obituary touches on it but it was the biggest of deals for me -- Joyce's ability to leave the farm, land in DC and then go toe to toe with politicians. "They put their pants on in the morning just like us."

And then .. the bankers. Politically, they were always trying to limit credit union membership and when credit unions started doing business loans they went over the edge. Congress decided they were going to fix everything and when the bankers and the credit unions sat down, Joyce was on the board of directors for our national trade association. She told everyone the deal to cap the amount of business loans a credit union could do was bad for consumers and not fair to credit unions. No one listened but they DID listen to her insistence that credit unions in the business of doing business loans should at least be exempt. She skillfully made noise to credit union leaders and -- most importantly -- politicians to make sure that exemption was included. Then, Joyce came home and immediately filed for a "business lending" exemption for Heartland, rounded up all the other business lending credit unions in Wisconsin and convinced them to do the same. It helped small businesses. It helped farmers. It helped communities. And, it helped credit unions.

Joyce took a chance hiring someone who didn't know much about credit unions and then went about becoming one of the best teachers I ever had. My condolences to her family and her credit union family, too.

Robin - May 19 at 09:51 PM

JD

“ As Director of Govt Affairs for the WI CU League, I had the pleasure of working with Joyce from 93-98. She was a strong leader with great conviction. She also demonstrated humility and sincerity. It was amazing to watch her lead her team, I learned a lot from her. I'm a better person for knowing Joyce.

*John Dickert
Racine*

John Dickert - May 19 at 08:54 PM



“ Sweet Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Joyce Alberta Harris.



May 19 at 02:00 PM



“ Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joyce Alberta Harris.



May 19 at 12:22 PM

BT

“Joyce was a mentor to many including myself. "Balance to the penny", and "understand why behind the how" and. "People helping People" were always in the lessons she taught. Directions always included landmarks for those that might be directionally challenged while driving someplace new. "Turn right at the old dance hall" was my first experience of driving with Joyce it led into a story of her younger days with Bill and some sort and of crazy fun. Which was kinda surprising for the women that sat next to me all put together in her business suit. Joyce, my friend , enjoy the dance with Bill. Becky Tourdot.

Becky Tourdot - May 19 at 10:34 AM

SD

“Joyce was a trailblazer for women in the credit union movement I cherish the time I worked for Joyce. She was an incredible leader, mentor and friend.
Sally Dischler

Sally Dischler - May 18 at 09:40 PM

BT

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Becky Tourdot - May 19 at 07:29 AM

SO

Joyce was married to our oldest cousin "Bill" and was a great gift to our family. Sharon Odahl {Baker}

Sharon Odahl - May 19 at 04:19 PM