



## Joyce Von Rueden

February 5, 1949 - October 25, 2021

Dodgeville - Joyce Elaine Von Rueden, age 72, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family, on Monday, October 25, 2021, at her home in Dodgeville.

After a courageous journey with cancer, she spent the last week of her life sharing memories, laughter, and goodbyes with her family and loved ones. As she often said, "Cancer sucks." And it does. But Joyce was never a victim to cancer. Though this path was not of her choosing, she accepted it as hers nonetheless, and she remained full of life, love, and immense generosity to the very end.

Joyce, a native of Darlington, was born in 1949 to John Emil and Margaret Ethel (Doyle) Clark. If Joyce had a hero(ine) in life, it was her mother, a truly special lady. She was the youngest of four girls, also known fondly as the "Cluck" sisters, and she was also blessed in life to have a wonderful stepfather, Matthew Schultz ("Grandpa Matt"). Joyce met her husband Kenneth Von Rueden at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, where they were both first-generation college students, and they married at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Darlington in 1974. Joyce and Ken built a rich and full life together in southwestern Wisconsin, first in Mineral Point and then in Dodgeville. She was blessed by so many wonderful friends, both from this corner of the world and far beyond. As evidence of her endless patience,

Joyce spent her entire career as a kindergarten teacher. She spent most of her career with the Dodgeville School District, including both the Ridgeway School and Dodgeville Elementary School. Joyce considered it one of her greatest privileges to play a small role in the lives of the children she taught over three decades; her students and her many wonderful teaching colleagues brought her a great deal of joy. After retiring in 2006, Joyce dedicated much of her time to volunteer work, spending time with good friends, and traveling to see her children.

Joyce's family, as she frequently told them, were her greatest blessings.

She is survived by her husband Ken and her children Sarah (husband Shannon) and Scott, as well as her beloved "grandpuppies" Maddie and Otis; sisters Barb (Bernard) Saunders, Millie (Dennis) Murphy, and Meg Clark (Paul) Krajewski; brothers-in-law Don (Donna) Von Rueden, Jim (Bonnie) Von Rueden, Ken (Judy) Boll, and Larry as well as sister-in-law Mary (Larry) Held; numerous dearly loved nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents, her father- and mother-in-law Raymond and Eileen (Stapleton) Von Rueden, her brother-in-law Bill Von Rueden, her sister-in-law Cheryl Von Rueden, and her niece Crystal Von Rueden.

Joyce and her family would like to express their eternal gratitude to the amazing physicians, nurses, and staff at the Carbone Cancer Center, particularly Dr. Mark Albertini, along with Dr. Jodi McGraw at Upland Hills Health and the truly inspiring team at Upland Hills Hospice. We would also like to thank all the "GodStrong Warriors" for their prayers, love, and support.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 30, 2021 at GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH in Dodgeville. Burial will be held in East Side Cemetery. Friends may call from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Friday at the GORGEN-McGINLEY & AYERS FUNERAL HOME in Dodgeville and from

10:00 a.m. until time of services on Saturday at the church.

The funeral service will be Livestreamed through the Grace Lutheran Church Facebook page (link below)

<https://www.facebook.com/glcdvgig/>

With COVID 19 concerns in mind, friends and family attending are required to wear face masks and apply social distancing as a safety precaution.

In lieu of flowers, Joyce asked that donations be made in her name to the University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center.

# Cemetery Details

## East Side Cemetery

601 E. Division Street  
Dodgeville, WI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **29**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Gorgen-McGinley & Ayers Funeral Home  
400 East Grace Street  
Dodgeville, WI 53533  
(608) 935-5222  
gorgenfh@mhtc.net

## Visitation

OCT **30**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Grace Lutheran Church  
1105 North Bequette Street  
Dodgeville, WI 53533

## Service

OCT **30**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Grace Lutheran Church  
1105 North Bequette Street  
Dodgeville, WI 53533



# Tribute Wall



“ *Joyce Von Rueden*

November 15, 2022 at 06:49 AM



“ *To Joyce and Ken, thank you for sharing a part of your life with me.  
Eileen O'Shea rn uw*

*(received joyce's car to me just today... always so thoughtful)  
thinking of you and your family.*

**Eileen O'Shea** - December 06, 2021 at 04:10 PM



“ *Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of  
Joyce Von Rueden.*



October 29, 2021 at 11:31 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the  
family of Joyce Von Rueden.*



October 29, 2021 at 09:31 AM

NM

“ My condolences to Joyce's family. She was a long time friend of my sister, Jane Folbrecht. Jane died in 2020 after a short bout with cancer. I know this was difficult news for Joyce & she gave her love & support to me & my other sister, Carol. Joyce & Jane are reunited again.

With sympathy,  
Nancy Martin

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**Nancy Martin** - October 28, 2021 at 09:48 PM

TM

“ Our condolences go out to Ken, Scott and Sarah. Joyce was a wonderful woman. We enjoyed the opportunity to know the Von Rueden's from our time living in Dodgeville to sharing our time at Edgewood with our boys' playing baseball and becoming friends. Cherish all the memories. Hugs and prayers.

Kirk and Terri McCullick

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**Teresa/Kirk McCullick** - October 28, 2021 at 01:29 PM

TK

“ Tom & Dawn Kaminski purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Joyce Von Rueden.



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**Tom & Dawn Kaminski** - October 28, 2021 at 12:05 PM

PR

“ Sending our deepest sympathy to your family. We were one of the lucky ones to have Mrs. Von Rueden teach our child. We remember her as loving, patient, and kind.

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**Prochaskas** - October 28, 2021 at 08:42 AM

DW

“ Our condolences go out to to the Von Rueden family. Joyce brought joy to her students and encouragement to everyone who knew her. We were neighbors and enjoyed watching Scott and Sarah become the wonderful adults they are today. Joyce will live on in our memory. Dave & Kathy Westhoff.

Dave Westhoff - October 27, 2021 at 02:20 PM

BP

“ Thoughts and prayers for Ken and family and friends. Peace be with you.

Becky Pertzborn - October 27, 2021 at 02:18 PM

DD

“ Dodgeville School District purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Joyce Von Rueden.



Dodgeville School District - October 27, 2021 at 02:08 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Joyce Von Rueden.



October 27, 2021 at 01:44 PM

ML

“ I'm am thinking of you Sarah and your whole families loss. Your mom was such a sweet lady, and she will be missed. Prayers for your while family

Michelle Marx Lobenstein - October 27, 2021 at 01:14 PM

JD

“ My family's thoughts and prayers go out to Ken and his family.

Joseph DeFoer

Joseph M DeFoer - October 27, 2021 at 01:04 PM

SH

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to Ken and the whole Von Rueden family. Treasure all those memories.

Sheri Stumpner  
Vita Plus Loyal

Sheri - October 27, 2021 at 11:50 AM

BL

“ My family's thoughts and prayers go out to Ken and his family.

Bret Louis - October 27, 2021 at 11:42 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joyce Von Rueden.



October 27, 2021 at 08:24 AM

DG

“ My condolences to Ken and family. She was such a kind, gentle soul. She had so much love for her students and people in general. A contagious smile and laugh. May you find peace Joyce.

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**Dorothy Gullickson** - October 27, 2021 at 07:16 AM

MH

“ My condolences to Ken, their children and all the family. Joyce was a dear, dear lady. She would always share a memory from her teaching days that she thought was adorable, and I thought was mortifying.... Joyce taught my little brother in kindergarten in Ridgeway. Awards day was an all-school event at the end of the year. A teacher was announced as receiving an award that was shaped as an apple. My brother thought they had said his name and to my horror as I watched from the bleachers, he stood up and proudly walked to the front of the gymnasium- where they handed him the apple. Rest in peace, Joyce, your work here is done.

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**Michelle Helin** - October 26, 2021 at 09:34 PM

KD

“ I remember Joyce as a happy, full of life woman who loved her husband and family unconditionally. She was the life of the party at family reunions always sharing childhood experiences. I also remember her kindness and love by sitting with Aunt Eleanor so she wouldn't die alone. She was a wonderful person. I'm so glad I got to know her. Love and hugs to her family

*Kathy and John Doyle*

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**kathy doyle** - October 26, 2021 at 09:33 PM

KC

“ *Condolences to the family. Joyce was such a wonderful woman. Enjoyed her company doing water aerobics at Lands' End for years and also on the sidelines as the boys played football.*

*Katee Christianson*

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**Katee Christianson** - October 26, 2021 at 09:14 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joyce Von Rueden.*



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October 26, 2021 at 08:14 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Joyce Von Rueden.*



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October 26, 2021 at 06:28 PM

CT

“ *Chad K and MS Team purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Joyce Von Rueden.*



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**Chad K and MS Team** - October 26, 2021 at 06:01 PM

MM

“ As young parents of a child with a heart defect, sending our son to school was a very scary time in our lives. Then we met this angel named Mrs. Von Rueden, who eased our fears & made us all feel safe. We were lucky enough to have her love & care for our second son & stayed in our lives ever since. What a beautiful soul who will be missed by anyone who was lucky enough to meet her. May you now rest in peace Joyce.

*All our love, Dave & Mary Murn*

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**Mary Murn** - October 26, 2021 at 04:06 PM

DD

“ Sooooo Sorry Ken and family - you are all in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time - Joyce was a wonderful lady - stay strong.

*Denise (James) Douglas*

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**Denise Douglas** - October 26, 2021 at 02:58 PM

DH

“ My Son , Jonathon Hildreth will miss you coming into the station💕 He loved helping you with your car. You are a wonderful Person.  
*Randy & Deb Hildreth Family*

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**Debra Hildreth** - October 26, 2021 at 02:10 PM

LS

“ Love, Anne, Casey, Laura, Rox and Stef purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Joyce Von Rueden.



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**Love, Anne, Casey, Laura, Rox and Stef** - October 26, 2021 at 12:43 PM

EE

“Joyce was a wonderful person, but more importantly to me a great neighbor..When I lived next to her and Ken in Dodgeville she always had a kind word for me as I struggled with the remodeling of the house and especially the painting outside. It took me over a month to finish but Joyce would always assure me how great a job I was doing and how great it looked-- even though I knew it didn't. She will be missed. I wish more people were like her... Ed Edwards

Ed Edwards - October 26, 2021 at 12:29 PM

LR

“Our deepest condolences to Ken, Scott, Sara/Shannon and all of Joyce's family. We loved Joyce from the minute we met her when our oldest son started in her kindergarten class. It was that year when she had the hurculean task of guiding our 5 years olds through that awful day of 9/11 and, just a few months later, getting her cancer diagnosis. Such a positive, loving person. She impacted so many and will always be missed by her wonderful family and beyond. Her love rippled outward to everyone she met. She has fought the good fight. May she now rest in peace. With much love from all of the Ramthuns--Mark, Luci, Aaron and Noah

Luci Ramthun - October 26, 2021 at 11:21 AM



“Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joyce Von Rueden.



October 26, 2021 at 11:17 AM

JW

“Joyce will be dearly missed. Her loving kindness, generous heart, and joyful spirit touched so many lives and we are grateful.

Jennifer Williamson - October 26, 2021 at 10:54 AM

AE

“I'm so sorry to hear of her passing. I knew her from church and being on the Service Ministry team together. She was such a wonderful lady and I feel blessed to have known her. I will always remember her smile and positive happy attitude. Many prayers to her family! God bless you all. Heaven has gained another angel.

Amanda Eastman - October 26, 2021 at 10:38 AM

SM

“Joyce was such a very special person. What a privilege to know her and call her friend. Her years as a kindergarten teacher show her remarkable patience and love. Many prayers to her family who were her greatest love. Joyce will be missed. God bless you all.

Susan McGraw - October 26, 2021 at 09:42 AM

KB

“Such a wonderful Lady, teacher, Mother & friend to so many people. Always will remember her smile, friendly disposition & love of life. She will be truly missed. Heaven has gained another Angel.

Kris & Jeff Borne - October 26, 2021 at 09:33 AM