



## Joanne Charlotte Baxter

October 20, 1930 - February 14, 2025

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMdkSTUWCWk>

Click on link above to watch the funeral service

Joanne Charlotte Baxter

(October 20, 1930 – February 14, 2025)

Joanne Charlotte Baxter (nee Gobar) of Richland Center's Pine Valley Community Village and formerly of Avoca, died peacefully at UW Hospital in Madison on February 14, 2025.

Joanne was born to Blanche and Julian Gobar on October 20, 1930, in Fennimore, Wisconsin. She graduated from Blue River High School and also graduated from what now is UW-Platteville. After graduation, she embarked on a 43-year teaching career, mostly with the River Valley School District. She was one of Wisconsin's longest tenured elementary school teachers when she retired.

Joanne married the love of her life, Lionel Baxter, November 23, 1951. They had two sons, Craig and David. They were inseparable during their 73-plus years of marriage, temporarily ending upon Lionel's passing on January 22nd of this year. Now they are reunited on Valentine's Day.

Joanne was known for being sweet, funny, kind, and smart, although she did

earn the nickname of “Little General”, as she liked things her way and stealthily worked until she got it. She had a strong sense of social justice and gave back to her community. She loved sharing stories of her students and their shenanigans, spending time with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. She had the cutest giggle and always said, “Oh, Lionel” at Gramps’ jokes. She loved having everyone over for lunch and always getting up at least 10 times during the meal to make sure everyone was taken care of. Gramps always said, “Sit down, Joanne!”. She was the Gram (“B”) who sent cards throughout the year just for fun and always had something special wrapped for each family member when they would visit. She had such a giving heart. She may have been short in stature, but her presence in how she cared for her family, students, and community were larger than life.

Joanne is survived by her beloved sons Craig of Buffalo Grove, Illinois; David of Oconomowoc; Wisconsin; daughter-in-law; Ronda (wife of David); grandchildren Leah, Ryan, Emily, Jessica, John (JD), Amanda, Rachel, Kelly; 23 great grandchildren; sister Marian (Bob); sister Kate (Fred); sister-in-law Betty Baxter (Avoca); and many nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her loving husband, Lionel; her parents Blanche and Julian; her sister Roberta (Karel); her grandchildren Beau Baxter (David); Erik Baxter (Craig); and great grandchild Graysen.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. with a service starting at 11:00 a.m. The visitation and service will be held at Clary Memorial Funeral Home, 26777 Jelland Drive, Richland Center, WI. Pastor Chris Simonson will preside. In lieu of flowers, memorials made to the Shriner’s Hospital in Minneapolis, St. Jude’s, and local food pantries would be appreciated.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMdkSTUWCWk>

# Cemetery Details

## Richland Center Cemetery

Richland Center, WI

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

APR 26. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Clary Memorial Funeral & Cremation Service, LLC  
26777 Jelland Drive  
Richland Center, WI 53581  
(608) 647-6390  
josh@clarymemorial.com  
<https://clarymemorialfuneralhome.com/>

## Celebration of Life

APR 26. 11:00 AM (CT)

Clary Memorial Funeral & Cremation Service, LLC  
26777 Jelland Drive  
Richland Center, WI 53581  
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# Tribute Wall

LW

“ *My deepest sympathy to the family,  
Love, hope, peace and prayers,  
Louis Williams*

Louis Williams - April 22, 2025 at 08:03 AM

PM

“ *On behalf of the Richland Area Retired Educators' Association (RAREA) and our parent organization, Wisconsin Retired Educators' Association (WREA), we express our sincere sympathy to Joanne's family.*

*Joanne was a former, long-time member of both organizations. We offer this quote that RAREA uses during these times: “No one can really say goodbye to teachers; for they forever stay in little homes called... hearts of their students. Farewell.” - - Anonymous - - Paul Murphey, RAREA Membership Marketing/Retirement Education Chair*



Paul Murphey - April 02, 2025 at 04:26 PM



“ *205 files added to the album Lionel & Joanne Baxter pictures*



Clary Memorial Funeral Home - April 01, 2025 at 02:03 PM

RE

“ *Your Mom was a beautiful spirit that will live on in my memories forever*

Randy Bahr Edwards - March 21, 2025 at 12:30 PM

MM

“ *My thoughts and prayers for Craig, David and family. Your mom will be forever in your heart.*

Marilyn Martin - March 08, 2025 at 12:48 PM

KL

“ *Such an amazing lady, she touched the hearts of so many, she will be missed!*



Kari Lull - February 21, 2025 at 12:50 PM

MM

“ *Mrs. Baxter was my Teacher many years ago. She was an amazing teacher, one of my favorites. It was always nice to see her over the years, always had a smile, it was so good to talk a few minutes. She was a little lady with a big heart who cared about her students. Memories are wonderful, thank God for them. Blessings to all 🙏...I didn't realize how little she was until I got older!!! ❤️. I will miss her*  
💕

Mary Clemo Manning - February 21, 2025 at 11:06 AM

LK

“ They were such a sweet couple, always a friendly smile and hello from them. I met your parents at the eye clinic many years ago, always a pleasure to assist them. It seemed they were always together. It is so appropriate they are together again. Sorry for your loss.

Linda Kleppe - February 20, 2025 at 09:57 AM

KM

“ Joanne was a very special person and a wonderful teacher 🙏

Karin McCaskey - February 17, 2025 at 07:28 PM



I agree Mom! ❤️  
Joanne was the BEST 3rd grade teacher ever! 💖

Terry McCaskey - February 17, 2025 at 07:31 PM

NR

“ I had your mom for a teacher and she was a wonderful teacher and person. Such a sweet couple. My parents Jim and Shirley Greenheck were fairly close to your parents. Now they are all heaven watching over us. So sorry for your loss. Nancy Greenheck Ring

Nancy Greenheck Ring - February 16, 2025 at 10:40 PM

DG

“ God bless her beautiful soul! Lionel and Joanne are together now in heaven! Rest in peace children of God!

Diana (Ziebarth) Guler - February 16, 2025 at 08:02 PM

CH

“*Joanne and Lionel will always be a part of my memories of 15 years of Saturdays in Avoca and all the various performances/recitals they supported. Condolences to Craig and David and their families. You've been loved by 2 very special parents 🌹*

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**Cyndee (Baker) Hawkins** - February 16, 2025 at 02:12 PM

DN

“*Both Lionel and Joanne were dear friends of ours--at church, at community events and organizations, as dining out partners, card playing friends, and so much more!  
On Lionel's March 9th birthday, in 2020, we took Lionel and Joanne out for breakfast, in Highland. Due to COVID, that was the last time, we dined out with them or anyone, in over three years. We talked A LOT on the phone during those years, always keeping up with each others' lives and extended family. They both were so proud of their sons and their families, and they always shared with us when they were visited by them, visits they valued and talked about over and over.  
George and I were so blessed to be friends of Joanne and Lionel. Those wonderful memories will forever be cherished.  
Farewell, dear friends! Rest in peace!!*

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**Dianne and George Nachtigal** - February 15, 2025 at 10:47 PM