



## Joy R. Richards

January 5, 1971 - January 29, 2014

Joy R. Richards, age 43 of Ithaca, went home to live with Jesus, on Wednesday, January 29, 2014 at the Gundersen Lutheran Hospital in La Crosse. Joy was born the daughter of Orlen and Alice (Winslow) Richards on January 5, 1971 at the Richland Hospital and spent the next 30 days at the Neo Natal Unit of St. Mary's Hospital in Madison. Joy was well known in the community as an avid supporter of her Ithaca Bulldogs, Wisconsin Badgers, and the Green Bay Packers. She was a graduate of Ithaca High School and a lifelong member of the Willow Valley United Methodist Church. Joy worked over 15 years at Wal-Mart, until her health wouldn't allow it and then worked several years at VARC.

Survivors include her parents Orlen and Alice Richards; a sister, Annette Louis; 3 brothers, Ron Richards, Rob (Cheryl) Richards, Marty (Terri) Richards; and the family dog, Berkley all of Ithaca; several nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and many friends.

A Celebration of Joy's Life will be held on Monday, February 3, 2014 at 11:00 AM at the Clary Memorial Funeral Home. Visitation will be held on Sunday, February 2, 2014 at the Clary Memorial Funeral Home from 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM and also on Monday from 10:00 AM until the time of service at 11:00 AM. A private family burial will be held at a later date in the Willow Valley Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please make memorials to the Willow Valley

United Methodist Church or the Ithaca School Foundation. On line  
condolences can be made at [www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com](http://www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

DR

“ I was a trainer for 3 years at VARC. I had many opportunities to work with Joy. I found her to be very outgoing with a great sense of humor. I also drove her home several times in the van after work. I will truly miss her friendliness, humor, and friendship.

*David Hinrichs*

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**David Hinrichs - Gotham, WI - One time trainer for VARC in RC** - February 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ We miss Joy Very Much

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**Bob & Heidi Sheire - Richland Center, WI - Friends** - February 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Joy I will miss you at all the sorting events at Ithaca You would make the best cheers for the team You have a great family I will miss you very much.

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**Debbie Fargen - Hillpoint, WI - friend to the family** - February 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ Richards' family: So sorry to hear of Joy's passing. Jesus sure has a SUPER FAN in his midst now! When I stopped in to see Joy at Gunderson, a few months back, I was again amazed at her absolutely positive attitude towards everything going on in her life. It was before the Packer's were out of any contention so, of course, we had quite a discussion about them. Joy's smile and enthusiasm will be very missed by all of us. Grace & Peace, Elmer and Angie

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**Angie & Elmer - Viola, WI - friends** - February 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ So sorry to hear of Joys passing. Such a wonderful person to have know.

*You are all in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Our deepest sympathy.*

*Mike&Janet Louis*

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**Janet mike louis** - February 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ *I used to work with Joy at Wal-Mart and she always had a smile on her face and was a joy to be around. My sympathies to the family.*

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**Kris Hauser - Blue River, WV - friend** - February 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ *Joy was aptly named. She spread joy throughout her life to everyone she met. She always, always took the time to say hi and chit chat whenever I saw her. My earliest memory of Joy was shortly after we moved to Ithaca and a HUGE tractor with a little girl behind the wheel came up our narrow driveway. "Hi Pillas- just checking up on you" . I was never sure how she backed down..... I couldn't look! I know I am not alone, nor is it any great surprise, when I say that ALL of Ithaca will miss Joy. May your heart be flooded with memories that make you smile and give you some comfort. You have my deepest sympathy.*

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**Sue Pilla - WI** - February 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

VS

“ *Joy Rosa, I will never forget you. You were a wonderful Aunt to Aaron and Courtney. We all love you.*

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**Vicki - Sextonville, WI - sister-in-law** - February 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ *Pastor Alice, Orlen and the entire Richards family. You have my heartfelt sympathy for Joy's passing. You also have the realization of her at home with her Lord and Savior. The suffering is over and now she is a healthy and happy girl. The strength of your profound faith and your family will get you through this. Prayers for all of you.*

*Mary Lee*

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**Mar Lee - DeSoto, WI - Family Friend** - February 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ *My mother, Esther Jones, was Joy's 1st grade teacher. We heard many Joy stories and it was apparent how much Mother liked her. She was so proud of Joy and of her family. Joy also shared a birthday with Esther's granddaughter born 1/5/72. Our deepest condolences to your family. My mother was never wrong, Joy was a joy!*

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**Sue Margaret Jones - Madison, WI - Friend** - February 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *my joys smile live on forever, we will all miss it. Prayers go out to the family.*

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**jim and joan carley - richland center, wi 53581, WI - friend** - February 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to all the Richards. Joy was such an amazing lady and without a doubt, the best Bulldog fan ever! When the kids were playing at Ithaca, Joy always pushed them to do their best and always with a smile.

*"If smiles were dollar bills, we'd all be millionaires for knowing Joy".*

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**Pat, Helen, Madeline, Sean, & Cameron Magee - Ithaca, WI - friends of family -**  
February 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ There are only a few times in life when you meet someone who can always put a smile on your face. Without a doubt, Joy was one of those people. Those of us lucky enough to know her, for any amount of time, will always have some great memories. For me, I will never forget the look she gave me when she found out I was a Pirate (DeSoto). Joy defined Bulldog Pride! My condolences to Joy's family and friends. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

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**Kyle Berra - Black River Falls, WI -** February 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RZ

“ joy  
joi/  
noun  
noun: joy

1.

*a feeling of great pleasure and happiness.*

*"tears of joy"*

*synonyms: delight, great pleasure, joyfulness, jubilation, triumph, exultation, rejoicing, happiness, gladness, glee, exhilaration, exuberance, elation, euphoria, bliss, ecstasy, rapture; More enjoyment, felicity, joie de vivre, jouissance;*

*literaryjocundity*

*"whoops of joy"*

*pleasure, source of pleasure, delight, treat, thrill*

*"it was a joy to be with her"*

*antonyms: misery, trial*

*a thing that causes joy.*

*We have had so much joy in knowing Joy. She had a way of bringing a smile to your face, no matter what.*

*Joy truly lived up to the meaning of her name!*

*She will be missed....*

*Our sincere condolences to the whole Richards family....you are all in our thoughts and prayers.*

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**Robin, Steve, and Alex Ziemke** - February 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ I recently moved back to Richland Center and my job takes me to Baraboo. For the past 2 weeks I have driven by Joy's home in Ithaca and every time I think about her sweet smile. I can still see her getting on the bus as a young girl. She will leave many good memories for all us. My thoughts and prayer go out to the family. RIP, Joy.

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**Lori Wild - Richland Center, WI - classmate** - February 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ Thoughts are with you all. Joy was such a joy;) She would do anything for anyone if needed in school as I am sure it continued through out her life also.I remember that big smile and laugh;) I did not have the pleasure of seeing her much after high school but I can see her now cheering on the bulldogs:) She will be missed:( God bless

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**Stephanie (Threlkeld) Mayer - Wisconsin Dells, WI - classmate** - February 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ Thoughts are with you all

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**Stephanie (Threlkeld) Mayer - Wisconsin Dells, WI - classmate** - February 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ She always brought a smile or a laugh in all that she did! She did love her sports teams! Prayers are with the entire Richards' Families during this time of mourning and celebration for Joy's life. Corey and Gretchen Kanable

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**Gretchen Kanable - Richland Center, WI - Family friend** - January 31, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ Joy was, and will remain, an unforgettable soul. She touched so many lives in and around the Ithaca community and I'm thankful to have known her. Sending many thoughts and prayers to the entire Richards family at this difficult time.

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**Joel Borski - Nashville, TN** - January 31, 2014 at 12:00 AM

HF

“ Joy always had a smile on her face when I saw her. It seemed I always ran into her at Wal-Mart. She'd be cruising around with her Diet Dew hanging off the basket. Seeing the picture of her brought a smile to my face because I can see the bottle peeking from behind that bag! Alice- I think of you often. My deepest sympathies to all

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**Heather Tague - Richland Center, WI - friend** - January 31, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ It has been a pleasure to meet and know the Richards family. My thoughts and prayers are with you in the loss of Joy.

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**Dianne Whiteley - Milano, TX - friend** - January 31, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ I remember how friendly and the smile Joy always had in High School. she always put a smile on my face especially when I was having a bad day. She was so funny and just an absolute pleasure to be around. I will miss her dearly as I'm sure will many people. My thoughts and prayers to the Richard's family. RIP Joy.

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**Sheri Shepherd - Boscobel, WI - High School Friend** - January 31, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Please accept my sympathy.

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**Joseph Simon - Richland Center,, WI - Friend** - January 31, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ I will always remember Joy's smile. She was a special person. I can only imagine how it must be for her to be whole and well and with Jesus. She will be missed. love and prayers from Nate and I

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**Mary McCauley - Muscoda, WI - family friend** - January 31, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ My name is Renee Hayes and every once in awhile I use to take Of Joy when she was in the hospital in Richland Center and she always made my day she made me laugh she was always so good hearted and funny. My heart goes out to the family God Bless you all

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**Renee Hayes - mount Horeb, WI - acquaintance** - January 31, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ To the entire Richards family- I am so sorry for your loss. Joy was exactly what her named described. My memories of her are of how she was always smiling, always had a positive or kind word for me, and her passion for the Bulldogs, Badgers, and Packers. I wish you peace in this time of sadness.

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**Kate Slesarik** - January 31, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Joy was a very special person. She has touched the lives of so many people in the community. She will be missed.

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**Dana Durst** - January 31, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ *May you keep smiling in Heaven. No more pain or suffering you are home and with other family members that left here before you. Rest in peace Joy and we will all see you again someday so it's not good bye just so long for now!*

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**Cindy and Carl Orloff - Richland Center, WI - friends of the family** - January 31, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ *Joy was such a special person. Ithaca just won't be the same without her. She always had a smile for everyone and she always made me smile. She will be missed so much. Orlen and Alice we are so sorry for your loss, but you can take comfort in knowing she is in a better place where there is no suffering.*

*Love to you all,  
John and Cheryl*

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**Cheryl McNurlin - Cazenovia, WI - friend** - January 31, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ *All of my thoughts and prayers are offered to the family of Joy. She was a special lady and will be missed by all!*

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**Tricia Louis - Union Center, WI - Classmate** - January 31, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ To the Richards Family,

*My deepest sympathy to you all. Joy was pure joy! I've only known her for a short time but she will certainly be missed by many, including the athletic trainers! Joy would sit by us yelling support for her Bulldogs! We would chat about the Packers and Badgers as well! I have memories that will last a lifetime from the few year I've known Joy. Her spirit will live on forever, as I will think of her everytime I walk into the Ithaca gym.*

*RIP Joy, now she has the perfect seat to watch all her favorite teams play.*

*God Bless,  
Sharon*

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**Sharon Panske - Richland Center, WI** - January 31, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ so sorry for the loss of joy, my thoughts and prayers are with you all

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**jeri walsh - monona, WI - freind** - January 31, 2014 at 12:00 AM

HP

“ We wish to extent our Deepest Condolences--She was an amazing Lady.

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**Harold & Judy McDonough - Evansville, WI - Classmate of Parent's** - January 31, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ I remember through out my years growing up with her that she was the one that taught me the real meaning of life. She never let anything get in her way. I was so happy the day I saw her in a Bulldog basketball uniform. She was a hard worker and a GREAT person to all she came in contact with. She touch my life in so many ways and I'm grateful for all the memories I have of her. God Bless and keep smiling Joy you will never be forgotten.

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**Shane - Dodgeville, WI - Family** - January 30, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ Joy was one special gal. She taught us all about loyalty and friendship. She was the best cheerleader around. All the angels in heaven better get those favorite teams right ( Badgers, Brewers, Bulldogs and Packers ) or she will set them straight. Brandon and Bud will be glad to see her. Heaven is in for a wonderful surprise. Joy also, no more struggles.  
Prayers and love to all the family  
John, Linda and Patrick

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**Linda Peterson - Richland Center, WI - friend of the family** - January 30, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ Joy had the most amazing heart and was the true embodiment of the human spirit! She always had a smile and a wonderful greeting for everyone ...and never forgot anyone no matter the number of years that had passed. My heart goes out to her family in this time of grief and I hope you find some comfort in knowing that Joy touched everyone she met in such a special way. She will be deeply missed...and never forgotten!

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**Rhonda Miklian - Roberts, WI** - January 30, 2014 at 12:00 AM