



## Rose Mary Wanless

March 3, 1930 - February 15, 2025

Rose Mary Wanless, age 94, of Richland Center, passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 15, 2025, at Our House Senior Living.

Born the youngest of five siblings, Rose Mary was born on March 3, 1930, the daughter of Hubert and Clara (Klein) Schmitz of Bear Valley, WI.

On October 4, 1952, Rose Mary married Duane Wanless at St. Kilian's Church, and together they built a life full of love and hard work. They first lived in Gotham, WI, before purchasing a farm in Little Willow, WI, where they raised their family.

In 1969, Rose Mary and Duane took a bold step, purchasing the Riverside Bar and Motel, where they ran a successful business for the next ten years. With the support of their children, the business thrived.

In 1975, they seized the opportunity to purchase another farm on Nebraska Hollow Road, where they raised cattle, hogs, and occasionally a litter of puppies. Rose Mary's love for animals was well-known-any cattle on the farm quickly became pets in her eyes. She continued to live on the farm she cherished until just a couple of years ago.

Rose Mary had a deep passion for gardening, loved taking walks in the woods, and spent countless hours birdwatching. Her connection to nature and the land was central to the joy she found in her daily life.

Rose Mary is survived by her children: Karen and Dan Krueger of Richland Center; Allen Wanless of Richland Center; Elaine and Scott MacDonald of Spring Green; David and Connie Wanless of Richland Center; Dan Wanless of Arlington, TX; and Janine Burke of Stoughton, WI. 13 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Duane, her son Dennis Wanless, son-in-law Francis Kaul, her daughter-in-law Valerie Stewart-Wanless and her siblings

Virginia Erstad, Kenneth Schmitz, Lucille Pulvermacher, and Robert Schmitz

Her legacy of love, hard work, and devotion to family and the land will live on in the hearts of those who knew her.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 AM on Thursday, February 27, 2025, at St. Mary's of the Assumption Catholic Church. Monsignor Roger J. Scheckel will officiate with burial at St. Kilian's Catholic Cemetery. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, from 4 PM – 6 PM at Clary Memorial Funeral Home and also at church on Thursday from 10 AM until the time of service. In lieu of flowers memorials may be given to St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic School in Richland Center. [www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com](http://www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## St. Kilian's Catholic

Bear Valley, WI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 26. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

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

## Visitation

FEB 27. 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM (CT)

St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church  
160 West 4th St.  
Richland Center, WI 53581  
(608) 647-2621

## Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 27. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church  
160 West 4th St.  
Richland Center, WI 53581  
(608) 647-2621

# Tribute Wall



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rose Mary Wanless.*



February 24, 2025 at 05:37 PM



“ *71 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Clary Memorial Funeral Home - February 21, 2025 at 02:44 PM

SP

“ *She was a wonderful lady! Glad I got to know her through ithaca schools. Sending thoughts and prayers to the family. She always had a smile. She will be missed by many. Hugs*

Stacy Pletzer(Ferguson) - February 18, 2025 at 03:31 AM

FA

“ *What an amazing lady! She was always a bright light to be around. I always looked forward to seeing her at the bus garage at Ithaca Schools, she always had a good story to tell and kept all of the rest of us honest! She will be missed! RIP Rosemary. Floyd and Vicki Anderson*

Floyd Anderson - February 17, 2025 at 06:54 PM

GP

“ *Extending many thoughts of sympathy-such a pleasant lady*



**ginger parkhurst** - February 17, 2025 at 03:09 PM

MG

“ *We are so sorry for your loss. We have many fond memories of the time we spent at Riverside while Duane and Rose Mary owned the bar. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Mike and Donna*

**Mike and Donna Gethings** - February 17, 2025 at 01:50 PM

RR

*I am so so sorry for ur loss. Sending thoughts and prayers to the family*

**Robin Rutledge** - February 17, 2025 at 02:52 PM

KA

*So sorry to hear of Rose Marys passing. Prayers going out to the Wanless family. Rose Mary drove school bus for years at Ithaca Schools. Our kids always loved their bus rides with Rose Mary.*

*Ken and Sally Auz*

**Ken Auz** - February 17, 2025 at 03:35 PM

LK

*I have memories of Rose Mary when I was growing up on the farm on Willow Creek. Great memories of Riverside, where Bernell and I had our Wedding Dance. She was always a hard worker, no matter what she was doing. Before Covid we would frequently see each other when we were out for Sunday morning breakfast. I enjoyed sharing stories about her garden, the eagles she enjoyed watching, and of course her family. Sorry for your loss, May she rest in Peace.*

**Linda Kleppe** - February 20, 2025 at 10:12 AM

LD

*Connie, I am sending condolences to you and your husband, very sorry for your loss.*  
*Linda Denman*

**Linda D.** - February 20, 2025 at 12:21 PM