



## Claudia Jean Klaiss

January 22, 1941 - April 5, 2024

Claudia "Jean" Klaiss of Charlotte, a nurturing, caring woman and friend to many, died April 5, 2024 at the age of 83. Jean was born in Jackson, Michigan on January 22, 1941 to Berkley and Hilda (Rhinehart) Larzelere. Throughout her lifetime she worked many different places, including Dewey's Party Store, Owens Illinois, bus driver for Charlotte Public Schools, G.C. Murphy Five and Dime, Klaiss TV, and Murray's Flower Shop, but most recently was happily retired. A lifetime member of V.F.W. Post 2406 and American Legion Post 42 in Charlotte, Jean enjoyed volunteering and being a part of a community of friends. Jean loved her family dearly and had many great memories of growing up with her sisters, family reunions, barn building, playing cards, and so much more with family at the heart of it all. She was very proud of her miracle baby, Dawn, and enjoyed married life as Mrs. Donald Klaiss, with a special love between them; becoming a blended family, which gave her more family to love; and the camping trips enjoyed together.

Jean is survived by her daughter, Dawn (Brian) Gibbs; step-children by title but children through love, Donald (Martha) Klaiss Jr., Brian (Kristi) Klaiss, Alan (Trina) Klaiss, and Gary (Susan) Klaiss; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; siblings, Jackie Robinson and Judy Jones; brothers and sisters-in-law, Sue (Chris) Scott, Sally (Rod) McMichael, Jan McQuay, Fred (Nadine) Klaiss; several nieces, nephews, and extended family members; and her longest and dearest friend since birth, Karen (Milo) Wright. She was

preceded in death by her first husband, Ken Wenzel and second husband, Donald "Duck" Klaiss; daughter and son-in-law, Laurie and Pete Sperry; sisters, Linda Davis and Meredith Potter; brother, Berkley Larzelere; and brothers and sisters-in-law, Jim Klaiss, Darwyn Jones, Jim Davis, Jean Reed, Larry McQuay, and Ken Robinson.

Friends are encouraged to support Jean's family by attending services or sharing memories on her Tribute Page at [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com). Visitation is Sunday, April 7, 2-4:00 PM and 6-8:00 PM at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte. Funeral services are Monday, April 8, 1:00 PM at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte with Greg Rinehart officiating. The funeral will be webcast so you may watch it from any computer, smartphone, or mobile device that has internet access. Go to [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com), click on Claudia Jean's tribute, then click on Photos and Videos from your computer (or Media from your smart phone). If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to CFD Christmas Kiddies. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 7. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W Seminary St  
Charlotte, MI 48813

## Visitation

APR 7. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W Seminary St  
Charlotte, MI 48813

## Funeral

APR 8. 1:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W Seminary St  
Charlotte, MI 48813

# Tribute Wall



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Claudia Jean Klaiss



---

**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - April 07, 2024 at 05:31 PM

DS

*What a beautiful and fitting memorial, Kenny Paul you haave a beautiful voice. Brittany, Hillarie and Dawn it must have been difficult to take pen to paper to share your memories. She will truly be misses, but we have so many wonderful memories, we must keep close to our hearts. My prayers are with you all. Big Dawn*

---

**Dawn Stafford** - April 08, 2024 at 05:49 PM

KC

*When we say goodbye we revisit all the goodbyes that came before and the tears that flow are often dried by the thoughts of the life hereafter all these beautiful people we love will have with the beautiful people THEY have missed. The circle of love and life and death is kinda amazing and a tad surreal if I'm perfectly honest. The dichotomy of all things....*

*The words and songs and memories of this ceremony are a fitting and loving portrayal of "Aunt Jean".  
Namaste, Kim (one of the welcomed ones)  
Condolences all.*

---

**Kim Ann Callan** - April 08, 2024 at 11:50 PM



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Claudia Jean Klaiss



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - April 06, 2024 at 10:54 PM

TD

I will miss you Aunt Jean, Love you always ❤️😊😊

Tina M Dunsmore - April 07, 2024 at 06:18 PM

AJ

“ Dawn, so sorry to hear of your Moms passing. She was a very special lady, so kind to everyone she knew or met. She will be missed by so many. We were out of town for a few days, so we weren't able to attend visitation.

Ann Jones - April 09, 2024 at 02:47 PM

EC

“ Sending our condolences from the staff at ECHRS

ECHRS - April 08, 2024 at 04:32 PM

CW

“ Chad & Carol Walker lit a candle in memory of Claudia Jean Klaiss



Chad & Carol Walker - April 08, 2024 at 09:20 AM

SP

“ I remember growing up and going to the family functions with all the ants and kids and everybody and one aunt Jean came. You knew to straighten up otherwise she was going to put you in your place but she was the sweetest and kindest lady with the biggest heart, and she’s going to be sadly missed, love you miss you, Stevie Potter

steve potter - April 07, 2024 at 01:44 PM



“ 47 files added to the album Life Tributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - April 06, 2024 at 10:31 PM

DF

“ Dan and Connie Parshall and family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Claudia Jean Klaiss.



Dan and Connie Parshall and family - April 06, 2024 at 11:52 AM

DF

“ Dan and Connie Parshall and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Claudia Jean Klaiss.

Dan and Connie Parshall and family - April 06, 2024 at 11:52 AM

RR

“ She was the most amazing grandma ever! All the special times that I have spent with her have always seemed so close. As a kid, we always knew that Grandma would have chocolate chip cookies and orange smiles ready when a visitor came by. She spent so much time making Halloween and Christmas memorable for us kids that when I became a mom I took my boys out to continue these traditions as long as I could. Grandma (Jean) has touched so many lives. During the summer, she worked the ticket booth at the Eaton County Fair. When I was in 4-H, I always looked forward to visiting Grandma! While I was in college she would send me big batches of her molasses cookies with apple jelly and when I got married the two of us made the flowers for my wedding. I could go on and on with the wonderful things that I remember. Most people don't live their lives to touch even have the lives that she did with such a positive light. We will miss you and will always love you. Love, Becky and Tim Ruehs and family.



Rebecca Ruehs - April 05, 2024 at 08:50 PM

CH

“ Dawn, We are heart broken over the loss of your mom. She was a person that truly had a heart of gold. Her life was love and labour. Her love for family and friends true. she always wanted the best for all of us. She will always be remembered forever in our hearts. ❤️  
John & Cheryl

Cheryl - April 05, 2024 at 08:05 PM

BM

“ *Brian, Tiffany, Landon and Piper Matson purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Claudia Jean Klaiss.*



---

**Brian, Tiffany, Landon and Piper Matson** - April 05, 2024 at 07:45 PM

TF

“ *The Brother and sisters inlaws& families purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Claudia Jean Klaiss.*



---

**The Brother and sisters inlaws& families** - April 05, 2024 at 07:01 PM