



## Joyce Ann Yates

May 12, 1931 - October 28, 2017

Joyce Ann (Cridler) Yates died on October 28, 2017 at the Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital in Charlotte, Michigan. She was 86. Born May 12, 1931 to William and Blanche (Smith) Cridler, Joyce grew up on a dairy farm in Middleville, Michigan, where she started driving her dad's tractor at the age of eleven. Joyce graduated from Thornapple Kellogg High School in 1949 and met Rod Yates at the Barlow Lake Roller Rink. After two years at Michigan State College she and Rod married. They moved to Charlotte in 1953 to take over Yates Hardware and raise their four daughters. Joyce spent countless hours caring for family and volunteering with the Congregational Church of Charlotte, the Girl Scouts, and other community organizations.

Once her daughters left home Joyce returned to Michigan State University, earning her bachelor's degree in 1983. She taught fourth, second and finally third grade at Washington Elementary School. She retired in 2000 after fifteen years of service to the Charlotte Public Schools.

Joyce loved sewing for her daughters, none of whom acquired their mother's expertise. She enjoyed camping and downhill skiing, dabbled in acrylic painting and stained glass, and loved her book club. Joyce and Rod spent many winters in Venice, Florida socializing on their Schwinn bicycles.

Joyce is survived by her husband, Rod; daughters Susan (Martien) Yates-

Mulder, Judy Yates, and Kate (Tom) Cizek; beloved grandchildren, Chris (Gina) Weimer and great-grandsons Marcelo and Joaquin of Austin, Texas; David Weimer of Cambridge, Massachusetts; Andy Williams and fiancée Nisa Penland of Seattle; Colin Williams of Traverse City; Libbie Weimer of Durham, North Carolina; Cameron Williams of Seattle; Laura Cizek and fiancé Mike Gorman of Okemos; and Don Cizek of Carmel, Indiana; brother-in-law Robert Wenger of Middleville; nieces and families, Christina and Ed Gibson of Alexandria, VA, Mary and Doug Newman of Howard City; nephews and families, Martin and Sheri Wenger, Phillip and Becky Wenger, Dan and Ann Wenger, and Thad Wenger, all of Middleville. Joyce was preceded in death by daughter Cindy, grandson Jesse, sister Helen Wenger, brother Dean Cridler, and her parents.

Visitation will be held at Pray Funeral Home on Monday, October 30 from 6-8pm and Tuesday, October 31 2-3:30pm with a celebration of Joyce's life at 3:30pm. Memorial contributions in Joyce's name to the Charlotte Community Library will honor her lifelong commitment to education, as will reading a book to a child. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Joyce on her tribute page at [www.PrayFuneral.com](http://www.PrayFuneral.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **30**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W. Seminary St.  
Charlotte, MI 48813

## Visitation

OCT **31**. 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W. Seminary St.  
Charlotte, MI 48813

# Tribute Wall

KT

“ My family lived across the street from the Yates'. I can remember spending lots of time over there as Mrs. Yates made sure I met all of her girls when we first moved to Charlotte. I remember loving their home and playing in their big back yard (which now as an adult would probably be much smaller than my memory!) My thoughts and prayers are with the family. Katie Gardner Taberski

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**Katie taberski** - November 13, 2017 at 07:37 AM

JT

“ This awesome person was the one that "tricked" me into becoming a teacher. In 1996, I began working at Yates Hardware and Joyce saw that I had a certain "knack" with how I dealt with the teens that came into the shop to look at bikes. She told me I should pursue being a teacher. I often told her, "No way!"

One day in May of '96, she had set it up with her husband Rod for me to assist her in the classroom. I thought it was to move some furniture around. When I got to her classroom door, I was surprised to see a floor full of seated kids ready for me to read them a story. I read the story with the best character voices I could come up with.

After, Joyce told me she was certain I should become a teacher and I should begin taking teacher prep training. I was enrolled at Olivet College the following Fall.

Thank you and rest peacefully Mrs. Yates.

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**Jeremy Tuller** - November 08, 2017 at 04:20 PM

LC

“ Susan, I was so sorry to hear of your mother's passing. I remember spending many happy hours at your house. Cherish your memories.  
*Linda Backofen Crawford*

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**Linda Crawford** - November 06, 2017 at 01:37 PM

AM

“ I have fond memories of Joyce as my girl scout leader. May cherished memories comfort friends and family at this time.

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**Ann Muntter** - November 03, 2017 at 01:28 PM

 Jeff Whiting

“ Fond childhood memories of the ol' vintage hardware store!

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**Jeff Whiting** - November 03, 2017 at 06:08 AM

MM


“ Joyce and I worked together at Washington School. She was always willing to share her ideas and school supplies. Joyce made a difference for so many , me included. She was beautiful on the outside and beautiful on the inside. My heart, thoughts and prayers are with her family.

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**Marilyn Armstrong Mathews** - November 02, 2017 at 11:46 PM

NA

“ Rod and family, So Sorry I missed the visitation. My heart goes out to you all for your loss. I think Joyce was a pretty amazing woman. I never told her but she inspired me to go back to school at an adult age. She will be missed by many. Hugs to all. Nancy Fox Carey Anderson.

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**Nancy Fox Carey Anderson** - October 31, 2017 at 11:18 PM



Journey  
Steward

“ *Mrs. Yates was one of the kindest human beings I've ever met. She was my second grade teacher, and we kept in touch through school until I graduated. She truly made a difference in my education, and in my life. She will be dearly missed.*

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**Journey Steward** - October 31, 2017 at 06:04 PM

JB

“ *I used to see Rod and Joyce almost on a daily basis at the hardware as I usually broke my bicycle daily. What a great couple.*

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**Jim Braden** - October 31, 2017 at 02:44 PM

CP

“ *It was with heavy hearts that Joyce and I heard about Joyce passing. We know that she is in a wonderful new world at the side of Jesus and is enjoying eternal peace where he promises no pain and no suffering for eternity.*  
*Rod you and Joyce were great mentors for me in those early days at the hardware. I have never forgotten the lessons and fondly think of them often.*  
*Rod may peace be with you and the family til you all get together again in heaven with your beloved Joyce.*

*Sincerely, Charlie and Joyce Porter*

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**Charles Porter** - October 31, 2017 at 12:43 AM

JF

“ I was blessed to have Joyce as a colleague and friend when we both taught second grade in Charlotte. She was always willing to share teaching strategies and was truly a dedicated professional who once enthusiastically told me, "I love waking up in the morning - because I get to teach!"

*I'll remember you always, Joyce, especially when reminiscing my years in the classroom.*

*Julie Freije*

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**Julie Freije** - October 31, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ Love, Cindy and Ruth purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Joyce Ann Yates.



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**Love, Cindy and Ruth** - October 30, 2017 at 01:52 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Joyce Ann Yates.



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October 30, 2017 at 10:57 AM

JS

“ It is with heavy hearts that we received the sad news of Joyce's journey to a better place. She will live in our memory and prayers forever. We were overjoyed when Joyce and Rod chose to spend their winter in unit #504 at RCR, directly next to us. Joyce would greet us most mornings with that wonderful smile and a cheery "good morning". We always arrived at RCR before them, as we were not big fans of temperature below freezing, and waited eagerly for the Yates' arrival, because we knew that happiness would immediately express itself once they knocked on our door. The only blessing we can gain from her passing is that God welcomed another superb angel last Saturday morning!

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**Jerry and Tina Schwartz** - October 30, 2017 at 08:42 AM

AH

“ We will never forget the times we camped with Rod and Joyce on the coast of Lake Michigan. I especially remember the time we spent with them "On Golden Pond," in their beautiful cottage on Gunn Lake near Charlotte, MI. I know Joyce loved it so. They were gracious and wonderful hosts wherever they were.

*Al and Lana Hoffmeyer  
Carrollton, MO  
Friends always.*

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**Al Hoffmeyer** - October 29, 2017 at 10:55 PM

LB

“ Mrs Yates was such a cornerstone of my childhood ! I felt I spent as much time at her home as I did mine in elementary school. It was such a fun and loving place to be. I remember so well when she sewed Katie and I matching outfits, a gesture and gift that meant so much . In later years we when we would see each other around Charlotte, she always had the same smile and welcoming way as if time had stood still. I was blessed to know such an extraordinary woman. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her .

*Lori Fremody Brown*

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**Lori Fremody Brown** - October 29, 2017 at 08:47 PM

AH

“ Thanks for all the ski trips to Caberfae. I will always think of you when I travel along M-55 between Cadillac and Manistee. Good times and good friends.

*Alan Hanson*

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**Alan Hanson** - October 29, 2017 at 08:02 PM

JB

“ I was so privileged to teach with Joyce Yates. She was a wonderful friend and a great mentor. She never hesitated to share her expertise or experience when I began teaching second grade with her. I really enjoyed being her colleague and learning from her. My condolences to her entire family. My prayers are with you.

*Julie J. Baglien*

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**Julie Baglien** - October 29, 2017 at 06:27 PM

CR

“ *what a WONDERFUL LADY and a teacher she tauught all 3 of my children i was also a room mother helped out in her classroom on many occasions and volunteered my time at holiday parties throughout the yrs RIP MRS. YATES Prayers to all family and friends*

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**crystal** - October 29, 2017 at 05:21 PM

JC

“ *Our deepest condolences to the Yates family during this sad time. We will always remember the lovely woman Joyce was. She always had a kind word for everyone she came in contact with. We will miss her.*

*Joanie and Jack Cowan*

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**Joan and Jack Cowan** - October 29, 2017 at 02:39 PM



“ *Tranquil Seas was purchased for the family of Joyce Ann Yates.*



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October 29, 2017 at 02:18 PM

RC

“ *Rod and Carol Cook purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Joyce Ann Yates.*



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**Rod and Carol Cook** - October 29, 2017 at 01:52 PM



Dayanara  
Ryelle

“ *I can't even begin to find the adjectives for such a fantastic teacher.  
I'm definitely heartbroken.* ”

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**Dayanara Ryelle** - October 29, 2017 at 12:08 PM