



## Ruth Joanne Gardner

August 24, 1932 - April 23, 2024

Joanne (Cook) Gardner of Charlotte, Michigan, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her loved ones on Wednesday, April 23, 2024. She was 91.

Joanne was born on August 24, 1932 in Traverse City, Michigan. She was the eldest daughter of Archie Fay Cook and Ruth Emma (Hubbell) Cook, and older sister of Mary Beth and Archie Fay Junior (Jim). Following in the footsteps of her parents, both dedicated educators, Joanne completed her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in speech and language pathology at Central Michigan University, and an additional Master's degree in psychology at Western Michigan University. She taught in the Charlotte Public School system for 38 years and was a member of the Upsilon chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International for Key Women Educators, ever devoted to supporting both students and fellow teachers.

In Charlotte, she met the love of her life, Joseph Munroe Gardner. They married on February 21, 1970, and have been inseparable ever since. Together with her husband, Joanne traveled the world, from every corner of her home state to Australia, China, and Mexico, to name a few. Joanne also spent much of her time giving back to her local community through her work with the Order of the Eastern Star of Michigan Brookfield #352 chapter; she was a loyal member for 73 years. Joanne was an avid crafter, delighting many

with her quilts and home-made cards, and one of the best square-dancers this side of the Mississippi.

Joanne is survived by her husband, Joe Gardner; her sister, Mary Beth (Cook) Tereschuk; eight nieces and nephews; and many, many great-nieces and nephews, all of whom love her dearly. She now joins in Heaven, her mother and father; brothers, Jim and baby Robert; brothers-in-law, Luey Heisler, Hugh Boehmer, Dean Thuma, and Daniel Tereschuk; sister-in-law, Betty Thuma; and nephews, Ron Thuma and Danny Tereschuk.

To honor Joanne's request, there will be no service. Please celebrate her life and lasting legacy privately or make a donation in her name to the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Upsilon chapter or the Order of the Eastern Star Brookfield #352 chapter. Friends are encouraged to share memories of Joanne on her Tribute Page at [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com) <<http://www.prayfuneral.com>>. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

# Previous Events

## Graveside

JUL 27. 10:00 AM (ET)

Lee Center Cemetery  
21812 V Drive N  
Olivet, MI 49076

# Tribute Wall

TF

“ Joe, my "old" classmate, I am so sorry to read of the loss of Joanne. I have missed "running" into you over the last few years. Please accept my deepest sympathy. Tom Fullerton

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**Tom a Fullerton** - April 27, 2024 at 01:49 PM

LC

“ Such a special teacher at Galewood Elementary. Thank you for the speech lessons so many years ago. I have never forgotten you. Rest in Heaven Miss Cook.

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**Laura Cooper** - April 24, 2024 at 05:45 PM

CC

Joanne was a wonderful person. Always patient and generous when I had her as my Speech and Audiology advisor when I did my student teaching at Parkview. She was smart and creative and fun to work with. She and Joe were the perfect twosome. She has left all who knew her with some wonderful memories.  
Ooo, carol cook

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**Carol Cook** - May 06, 2024 at 01:54 PM