



Carmen Jo Barwikowski

March 9, 1950 - November 26, 2021

Carmen Jo Barwikowski, age 71, of Cedarville, Michigan, died November 26, 2021. She was born March 9, 1950, in Hazen, Arkansas, to Richard Dinsdale and Doris LaVon (Horton) Rochelle.

Carmen spent her first year of life in Arkansas before her family moved to Belleville, Michigan seeking a better opportunity. She graduated from Belleville High School in 1967. She met John Barwikowski after he was discharged from the army in 1967. They became good friends and started dating in 1968. After a year they were smitten with each other and married September 20, 1969. Together they raised their children, Jason, and Joy. Carmen decided to go back to school and attended Oakland Community College, often with one of her young children in tow. Her hard work paid off and she earned an associate degree in Computer Science, which led to a thirty-year career as an IT specialist for Brighton schools.

Carmen enjoyed being outdoors and could often be found soaking up the sun on her porch or working in her garden, overlooking the bay. She and her family would go camping, canoeing, and kayaking together. Carmen made sure her garden was the most inviting place for birds, bees, and butterflies. She also loved her indoor activities: reading fantasy novels, crocheting afghans, scarves, and hats for family and friends, cross stitching, listening to live music, and dancing. Those that knew her, knew her talent and sass on the

dance floor!

Carmen is survived by her beloved husband of 52 years, John; their children, Jason (Carly Laws) Barwikowski of Hood River, Oregon; Joy (David) Herbst of Fairfield, Connecticut, and her cherished grandchildren, Ari Herbst, Benjamin Herbst, Rowley Barwikowski and Foley Barwikowski; her dear sisters, Denise (James) Oltersdorf of Chino Valley, Arizona, and Donna (Randall) Rochelle of Peoria, Arizona; brother-in-law, Gerald (Linda) Barwikowski of Ann Arbor, Michigan; and sisters-in-law, Janel Sowa of Chelsea, Michigan, Jeanie Barwikowski of Commerce Township, Michigan, and Diane Barwikowski of Roscommon, Michigan.

Carmen was preceded in death by her parents, Richard and Doris; her brother, Richard Rochelle Jr., and brothers-in-law, Robert Barwikowski and Lawrence Barwikowski.

A memorial gathering will be held December 3, 2021, at Galer Funeral Homes in Pickford, Michigan, from 11:00 AM to 1:00PM.

Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choice that helps to support and fulfill the mental health needs of women.

Cemetery Details

Eastern Upper Peninsula Crematory

24549 S M-129
Pickford, MI 49774

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

DEC 3. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Galer Funeral Homes & Cremation
24549 S. M-129
Pickford, MI 49774

Tribute Wall



“ *Carmen Jo Barwikowski*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Carmen Jo Barwikowski*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Carmen Jo Barwikowski*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *Thoughts and prayers to Carmen's family. I had the pleasure of working with her at Brighton Area Schools. She was extremely intelligent and dedicated to the students. We were lunch partners for many years and I so enjoyed her company. God has received a loving angel!*

Dawn Castonguay - December 11, 2021 at 06:49 AM



Thank you, Dawn. I hope you and your family are doing well. Sending love.

Joy Rochelle - May 07, 2022 at 08:32 AM

LA

“ Love- Joy, David, Ben and Ari purchased the [Memorial Trees](https://www.galerfuneralhomes.com/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) for the family of Carmen Jo Barwikowski.

Love- Joy, David, Ben and Ari - December 06, 2021 at 06:32 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Carmen Jo Barwikowski.



December 03, 2021 at 07:51 AM



“ [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was purchased for the family of Carmen Jo Barwikowski.

December 01, 2021 at 10:19 AM

TO

“ John we are heart broken and in shock to hear of Carmen's passing.
Our sympathy and prayers to you and the family. Carmen will always be remembered by her sweet smile and her thoughtful caring ways. I will also miss the times we shared on the dance floor with the Shipheads on Shore.

Teri Ollila - December 01, 2021 at 08:18 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Carmen Jo Barwikowski.*



November 30, 2021 at 03:39 PM



“ *Precious Carmen, there are no words, she was my cousin, my Michigan cousin who I always said I would come and visit someday. I will always remember the summer visits in Arkansas, she was always so adventurous! Carmen was a very caring and thoughtful person who always had a smile. Although miles separated us, I felt comfort knowing she was there.
My sincere sympathy to John, Jason, Joy, Donna, Denise and grandchildren.*

*Love you all,
Marla, Larry and family*

Marla McHughes - November 30, 2021 at 02:52 PM



What a beautiful message and remembrance, Marla. Thank you so much for sharing this. We appreciate it very much. With great love, Joy Herbst (Carmen's daughter)

Joy Herbst - December 02, 2021 at 07:41 AM

DS

“ *My deepest sympathy to John, the kids, and Carmen’s friends and family. I have so many great high school memories of Carmen... I wouldn’t know where to start....we experienced hip hugger pants, bell bottoms, dances at Greenlawn Grove, riding on the back of motorcycles to Cedar Point, many parties, and more together. I am so glad I had the opportunity to see her and John this past year. Carmen will always be in my heart.*

Diane Stachnik - November 30, 2021 at 12:01 PM