



Joan Marie Bal

February 19, 1934 - September 15, 2021

NORWAY- Joan Marie Bal age 87 of Norway, passed away Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at Baylor Scott and White Medical Center in Lakeway, Texas.

Joan was born in Norway on February 19, 1934 to the late Leo and Marie (Sturm) Bertolini.

After graduating from Norway High School in 1952, Joan worked for the Norway Current newspaper and print shop for about 4 years before joining wholesale grocery distributor Northland.

On April 22, 1961, Joan married Walter Paul Bal and moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. While in Milwaukee, Joan raised their daughters serving as a Brownie leader and helping with their Girl Scout Troop.

In 1973, Wally accepted a temporary work assignment in Fort Walton Beach, Florida and off they went. During their year in Florida, Joan and Wally took up square dancing, with Joan using her sewing skills to make their costumes. In 1975 the family moved to Indianapolis, Indiana. In Indianapolis, many hours were spent playing Euchre with their neighbors. As her daughters went off to college, Joan resumed her career working at Fulton Junior High School for 15 years.

Upon retirement, Joan & Wally returned home to Norway, Michigan. Joan was a member of St Mary's Catholic Church, the Women of St Mary's, the Women's Auxiliary for the American Legion Post 145, and the Norway Women's Club. She enjoyed knitting and crocheting making afghans for all members of the family. For the last 13 years, Joan was chairman of the Dickinson Area Community Foundation Walter Bal Scholarship. Joan's last few years were spent in Austin, Texas.

Joan possessed a fierce determination with all challenges she faced. She earned her honorary nursing degree taking care of Wally in his last years. She bravely faced her own decreasing mobility and eventual paraplegia. She was very proud of her daughters, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. In her last few years, Joan enjoyed eating out, Bingo, exercise class, visits with grandson Jon, and Face-time with granddaughter Katie & great-grandchildren Addison and Brianne.

Joan is survived by her daughters Linda Bal of Austin, TX, and Diane (Larry) Frantz of Carmel, IN; grandchildren Katie (Josh) Tummers of Louisville, Kentucky and Jon Frantz of Fishers, IN; great grandchildren Addison & Brianne Tummers; In-Laws Bernice Bal, Marie Bal, Marie Devine, Patsy (William) Zanona, Marge Meneghini, Dorothy Manke, George (Betty) Bal and Helen Galleger; numerous special nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband Wally; her parents; brothers Leo Bertolini Jr., and Robert Bertolini; In-Laws John Bal, Joseph and Margie Bal, Edward Bal, Robert Devine, and Lee Meneghini.

Family suggest that memorial donations may be made in her memory to DACF, Norway Affiliate for the Walter Bal Scholarship, 220A East Hughitt St., Iron Mountain, MI. 49801.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, September 25 from 9:30-11 a.m. at St. Mary's Church in Norway.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Church with Fr. Martin Flynn officiating.

Interment will follow at the Norway Township Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Norway Township Cemetery

Norway Township, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **25**. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Church
401 Main Street
Norway, MI 49870

Mass of Christian Burial

SEP **25**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Church
401 Main Street
Norway, MI 49870

Tribute Wall



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Joan Marie Bal.*



September 24, 2021 at 04:20 PM



“ *Linda and Diane and family, I was so sorry to hear of your loss. I have fond memories of times spent with all of you in Indianapolis and Norway. I know that you did everything possible to ensure that Joan was comfortable and well-cared for. My deepest sympathy to all of you.*
Donna DuLong



Donna DuLong - September 24, 2021 at 12:54 PM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I have nice memories of Joan. May she rest in peace. Deepest Sympathy, Joy Bilski*

Joy Bilski - September 23, 2021 at 10:39 AM

GD

“ Linda and family! So sorry for your loss. Linda thank you for notifying me right away of her passing. It was a pure pleasure traveling with you to Texas to get your mom settled in there. It was a great honor to do that for you and your mom. She always made me laugh and I truly enjoyed taking care of her when she was in michigan, also enjoyed my time in Texas with you both. You made me feel so welcome and I will never forget it. Much love from the Dabb family

Geri lynn Dabb - September 22, 2021 at 03:04 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joan Marie Bal.



September 22, 2021 at 03:02 PM

SM

“ To the Family of Joan,

*Memories have a magic way of keeping our loved ones near,
Ever close in mind and heart are the ones we hold most dear!*

*With hope that each day ahead will bring a measure of comfort.
God's Love, Prayers, and Blessings,*



St. Mary's - September 21, 2021 at 11:54 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Joan Marie Bal.*



September 21, 2021 at 02:00 PM



“ *Dearest sympathy to Aunt Joan and her family. She was a wonderful caring woman. She brought fun and joy to others. She Loved deeply, her family, friends and neighbors. Many of her neighbors became her dear friends. She was a pillar in Norway and the entire Dickinson County. Aunt Joan poured herself into her family. I am so thankful for how she always contacted her brother Leo, our father over the years. She send him his favorite treats over Christmas. I will always remember dearly how Aunt Joan and Uncle Wally let me spend part of a summer in Indianapolis when I was 14 years old. My cousins were such fun to be with, I was welcomed warmly. I always admired Aunt Joan and her patience, tenancy, and faithfulness. Aunt Joan you will be missed. You have left a great and enduring legacy. Aunt Joan you always made anyone feel at home around you.*

Joan Dimoff - September 21, 2021 at 12:03 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joan Marie Bal.*



September 21, 2021 at 10:35 AM

KC

“ Evelyn and Joe Hankins (Susie's Dad) were neighbors and close friends of Wally and Joan in Indy. Susie and I saw them often at the Hankins place on Montrose Court. One year, after a trip to Mackinac Island, we drove to Norway for a short stay with Joan and Wally. It was a very nice time. Joan wasn't too sure that just Wally and I should be splitting an entire pitcher of his famous Manhattans but we did it anyway. The next day Wally and I got on all-terrain vehicles and toured his deer camp and the various tree stands in that beautiful Upper Peninsula woods. Wally & Joan will be missed by many. =Ken Crandall

Ken (and Susie) Crandall - September 20, 2021 at 03:07 PM

FP

“ I am so sorry to hear of Joan's passing. I really enjoyed the years I got to work with Joan and get to know her while I was working at DACF. She was such a wonderful person. My thoughts and prayers to all of you at this very difficult time.
Faith Peterson

Faith Peterson - September 20, 2021 at 01:06 PM

JM

“ Dear Cousins,

Deepest condolences on the loss of your Mom. She was a wonderful Mom and much loved Aunt to my sisters and my self. I see her strength, determination, compassion and love for life and family reflected in both of you.

My thoughts and prayers are with you both and family as you grieve.

You will be missed much Aunt Joan and will be remembered with smiles and joy.

Vince and Jeanne Maniscalco

Jeanne Maniscalco - September 19, 2021 at 05:44 PM