



Joanna "Gail" Barresi

August 30, 1952 - December 30, 2021

Joanna "Gail" Barresi was a caring wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. She departed from this world unexpectedly but peacefully on Dec 30, 2021 at the age of 69.

Beloved daughter to the late Joanna and Theodore Schneider Sr., born in St. Clair Shores, MI on Aug 30, 1952. Loving wife of 37 years to Joseph Barresi; adored mother of Christina (Greg) Kimmerer, and Ronald (Rachael) Toupin Jr.; proud Nana of Johey and Dylan (Kimmerer); Jonathon, Rebekah and Benjamin (Toupin); Preceded in death by Joyce Schneider, Sue (Jack) Kingston, and Bonnie Holiday; survived by James (Sally) Schneider, and Theodore (Karen) Schneider Jr.; treasured Aunt to many nieces and nephews.

She went to Lake Shore High School for a period but realized a real sense of accomplishment when she returned to night school as an adult in Wyandotte, MI to obtain her HS diploma. She retired from Troy School District where she enjoyed being a school bus driver.

Joanna's greatest love was spending time with her children and grandchildren. She found the most joy camping each weekend in the summer where new memories would take bloom, and memories of old would be reminiscence. She enjoyed gardening, traveling, and her many fur babies over the years. Joanna made many life-long friendships and was happiest sitting on her porch chit-chatting with her neighbors and friends.

Funeral service will be held at Hopcroft Funeral Home on Friday, Jan 7, 2022 where the family will privately mourn at 10:00 am. Visitation to the public will be held from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, followed immediately by a 3:00 pm service.

Hopcroft Funeral Home-Madison Heights
31145 John R. Road
Madison Heights, MI 48071

Telephone: (248) 585-7770

Fax: (248) 585-0117

Toll Free Phone: (888) 271-7770

Email: hopcroft1948@yahoo.com

Previous Events

Family Hour

JAN 7. 10:00 AM (est)

Hopcroft Funeral Home-Madison Heights
31145 John R. Road
Madison Heights, MI 48071
hopcroft1948@yahoo.com

Visitation

JAN 7. 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM (est)

Hopcroft Funeral Home-Madison Heights
31145 John R. Road
Madison Heights, MI 48071
hopcroft1948@yahoo.com

Funeral Service

JAN 7. 3:00 PM (est)

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31145 John R. Road
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Tribute Wall

JO

“ *im one of her grandchildren and she was one of my favorite people in the world she made me happier that anyone else could but a memory would be when we got into a fight and the next time we saw each other we made up and were best friends again we had a great bond and i love her alot i wish she wasn't gone*

Jonathon - May 10 at 08:20 AM

“ Each day, I've woken up this past week, I've wanted to call my mom. Last night was no different, I wanted to call her to tell her how I've been feeling, what my day was going to look like and the struggles we've been having because that's what best friends do. Half the time I would talk, she would spend time talking to the dogs and it would really aggravate me more than you can imagine but I got used to it. In the early 2000's, a retired colleague of mine asked me what I was doing for Mother's Day and I grumbled about it, telling him I had to figure out a gift for my mom and then go visit for a celebration she'd likely think wasn't special enough. I'll never forget what he said to me. He said, "what I wouldn't give to spend just one more Mother's Day with my mom." Long story short, his words hit home for me. From that day, I never took advantage of the time I was able to spend with my mom. What I wouldn't give to be able to hear her laugh, feel her touch, her embrace just one more time.

My mom struggled growing up, she didn't have it easy, she certainly didn't have a role model for raising children.

Raising my brother and

I, especially as a single mom before my dad came along was gut wrenchingly hard and super courageous. While there were times I thought she didn't love us, I could've never known the lengths she was going through to feed us, cloth us and care for us, while always encouraging us to be our best selves.

See, children don't realize the sacrifice of their mom (or their dad), until they are much older- having children of our own helps to speed up that lesson! Life was so darn stressful for my mom that it was difficult for her to stop and smell the roses. Even hugs sometimes took too long. It was enormously arduous for her to take the time to show her love in the way I wanted back then, and that was before I started to give her the gray hair in my teenage years! Now I know the struggle, now I know how she showed her love, she worked 2-3 jobs, she worked tirelessly in everything she did! When she wasn't at work, she was still working, at home cooking, keeping house, teaching us right from wrong, and breaking up fights between my brother and I. She worked endlessly with little acknowledgement to teach my brother and I to be responsible citizens, she stressed the importance of taking care and loving each other because in the end, it's all we would have.

It took many years for my mom to be able to show love the way I had always wished for because she finally knew that we were going to be okay, that we were safe and she had done her job well, despite the hand she was given. My mom loved us and it wasn't long into adulthood that I realized how much. My mom had grown on so many different levels that I could write a book but the only one that really matters is the growth of her heart ❤️ and her acceptance of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ into her heart. She had learned to smell the roses, she had learned to give the best hugs, the best kisses, the best advise, the best praise and the best of herself FREELY to her family. I am so blessed for her hard work, her dedication, and her undying need to be our #1 fan. She always was... but kids

will be kids, how little we knew of her endless love. You are no longer in pain, you are enjoying the afterlife with our heavenly father, and being reunited with loved ones that have passed before you.

I love you mommy and I will miss you until we meet again...

Christina Kimmerer - January 09 at 06:55 PM

TB

“ *I worked with Jo for 20 something years at Troy Schools. We had some wonderful talks! She always had such wonderful things to say about her husband and children. She would also tell me when one or another was 'in for it' when she got home. Always said with a smile of course. I will never forget you friend. I will miss you always.*

Sending prayers and love to Joanna's family.

Tina Bates - January 07 at 05:01 PM

CK

Thank you Tina, we were often waiting for the hammer to come down because we knew we set the nail! God bless.

Christina Kimmerer - January 09 at 06:57 PM

RI

“ *Aunt Gail was a beautiful, wonderful human being. She was full of love and fun. The memories of camping and fishing and hanging out on holidays will forever be cherished! She will be missed by so many people. I love you Aunt Gail. Rest In Peace!!*

Robert Scheetz III - January 04 at 02:45 PM

CK

Thank you Rob, she loved you guys very much.

Christina Kimmerer - January 09 at 06:56 PM

DS

“ *I have many wonderful memories of Aunt Gail and Uncle Joe together. My favorite was going camping with them after Rob's accident. We needed to get away and have some fun, and we did. I appreciated that week more than anyone could ever know. Aunt Gail recently paid Rob and I an amazing compliment, one that I will forever remember and cherish.*

Thank you Aunt Gail. We will miss you. We love you.

I pray the amazing memories bring you all peace. We love you. Love, Debby & Rob

Deborah Scheetz - January 03 at 05:42 PM

JN

May you rest in the fold of our Lords arms. You will be with your sister Bonnie.

I can still see you in that pink silk Union jacket. Thank you for the help you gave the drivers.

You were a great dog owner Joanna.

We had fun doing the Troy reunion and planning it together and laughing through it.

*You are heavy on my mind, "what a lesson it was to read you had been taken home".
The Lord gives us all two dates, one our birthdate and the date he calls us home.*

It was nice knowing you. You made the workplace a better place with humor.

Let the flowers from above surround you. Jerrilin Naylor

jerrilin Naylor - January 05 at 04:45 PM

CK

Thank you Jerrilin, I remember your name from when I was little. My mom sure did love pink and she loved her job, along with the other drivers. She loved her kids, especially her special needs kids. She will be deeply missed. Thank you for your kind words, God Bless.

Christina Kimmerer - January 09 at 07:01 PM