



Janice Kay Holden

FEB 22, 1947 - MAR 19, 2026



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Janice Kay Holden

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Janice Kay (Malott) Holden Janice Kay (Malott) Holden, lovingly known as Jan, passed away peacefully on March 19, 2026, at Poppen House in Muskegon, Michigan at the age of 79 following a short but courageous battle with bone marrow cancer (MDS).

Jan was born on February 22, 1947, in Muskegon, Michigan. As the child of a military family, she spent her early years moving often before eventually planting deep roots in the Whitehall and Muskegon communities she loved. She later made her home in Novi, Michigan, after marrying the love of her life, Jim Holden, on June 17, 1995. Together they eventually returned to Muskegon in the early 2000s.

Jan was a dedicated and hardworking woman who spent more than 30 years at Howmet where she was actively involved in her union, proudly serving on the board of UAW Local 1243. She later worked in customer service at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, where she retired.

Above all else, Jan was most proud of her role as a mother. As a single mother, she worked tirelessly and sacrificed greatly to provide a loving and stable life for her children, Aaron (“Mickey”) and Cari. She instilled in them her strong work ethic and values, and she took immense pride in the people they became.

Jan’s greatest joy was her family. She cherished her role as a grandmother to her ten grandchildren and treasured every moment spent with them. Known for her kindness, fun-loving spirit, and unmistakable loud and boisterous laugh, Jan brought joy to everyone around her. She had a wonderful sense of humor and was never afraid to say something a little inappropriate if it meant making others laugh.

She was a loyal and lifelong friend to many, maintaining close relationships from her high school days and early years at Howmet throughout her life. As an only child, she was especially close to her cousins, many of whom were like siblings. Together they shared countless memories, from



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traveling, celebrating holidays, and spending summers picking cherries and fruit on family farms in Shelby, Michigan.

Jan was preceded in death by her parents, Lucille and Elmer Hall, and her father, Don Malott; her mother-in-law, Barbara Holden; and many beloved grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. She was also deeply devoted to her mother, Lucy, who passed away in May 2025 at the age of 100. The two were inseparable, and Jan found great comfort in the thought of being reunited with her.

She is survived by her husband, Jim Holden; her son, Aaron (Jennifer); her daughter, Cari (Troy); her stepchildren, Michelle (Mark) Makowski and Jim (Jessica); her cherished grandchildren, Andrew (Skye), Allyson (Christian), Shayne Hartman, Taylor, Kayla Noble, Justin, Tyler, Grace Makowski, Janessa, and Jayla Holden; and many dear lifelong friends who meant so much to her.

A Funeral Service will be held for Jan on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 11:00 AM at The Lee Chapel of Sytsema funeral & Cremation Services, 6291 S. Harvey St., Norton Shores, MI, 49441. VISITATION will be held from 5:00 PM-8:00 PM on Tuesday, March 24, 2026. Interment will take place at a later date. Please sign the family's on-line guestbook at <https://www.sytsemafh.com>.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Harbor Hospice of Muskegon.

Jan will be remembered for her laughter, her strength, her unwavering love for her family, and the countless lives she touched. She leaves behind a legacy of resilience, humor, and deep, enduring love.



Events

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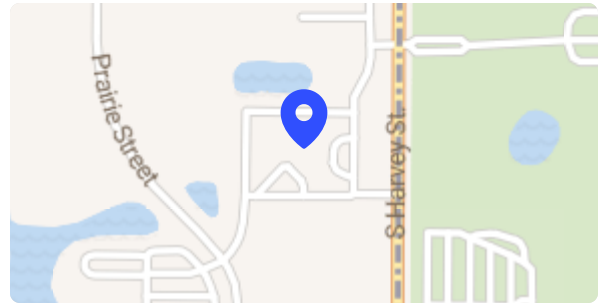
Visitation

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET

Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The Lee Chapel

6291 Harvey St., Norton Shores MI 49444



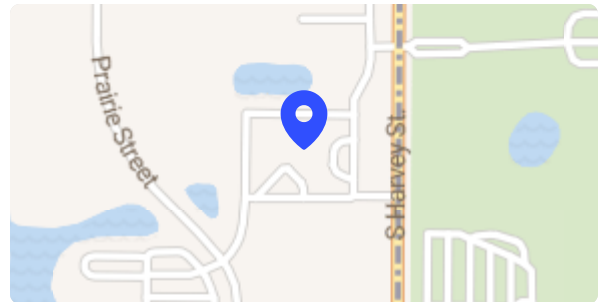
Funeral Service

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

11:00 AM ET

Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The Lee Chapel

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Tribute Wall

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All Our Love Lynn, Denise & Jill sent a Fiery Lily and Rose to the Holden family.



March 23 at 6:18 PM



Elisabeth McConnell posted:

Jana Banana... I worked with her at BCBSM in Grand Rapids for years. Her, Dana and I would hang out all the time. My fondest memory of her is us just driving anywhere. I would be typically be driving and Jan would be in the front seat, and Dana behind me. We'd laugh and giggle and then was born the "make a Jan" for a right or "make a Dana" for a left. We'd watch the sky for lights in the dark so we'd know what direction to head to get to civilization. And that's what Jan was and still is - a light in the sky to guide us on our way. I'll miss you, Jana Banana. I love you with all my heart.

March 23 at 1:03 PM



Dana Ward posted:

Mama Jan, "MOP" as some of us a BCBS called you ;) Where do I begin? You were a friend during some of the most difficult times of my life. My kids still call you Auntie Janice. We went through the misery of training at BC and made the best of days that we thought would drive us both crazy. Our rides to and from work, the weirdo jogger in the hot pink shorts, the dinner at my house (smoke alarm blaring), the long talks, so many memories! You will be so missed my friend. Love you with all my heart.

March 22 at 8:45 PM



Siepierski sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Holden family.



March 22 at 7:07 PM



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Berit Brandes posted:

Dear Jan, Thank you for sharing your home with me 36 years ago. Thank you for sharing part of your life with me. Thank you for your open door and open heart. Thank you for the memories made together. Thank you for the laughter shared and thank you also for the tears cried together. Thank you for accepting and loving me just the way I was. Spending 10 months with you, being part of your family, changed my life. I think I would not become the person I am today if I would not have stayed with you. You will always be part of my life and you keep on living inside my heart. Berit

March 22 at 10:18 AM



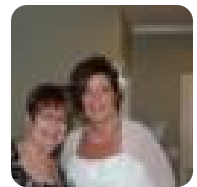
Cari Hartman March 27 at 11:23 AM

Berit-Mom loved you so very much. We're so grateful you were a part of our family back then and still now. All our love-Mick and Cari



Gee Gee Lawless shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

My beautiful friend of 40 years. You are my Seester forever. You took risks' for me by taking my wedding photos 14 years ago. You took them like a pro. I'll always talk to you, Always love you as family, and never forget you and always cherish our slumber parties. I'll see you again, my Seester. I Love you! Gee Gee



March 20 at 10:44 PM



Tammy Dempster lit a candle in honor of Janice.

Janice I will miss you but I promise I will never ever forget you and neither will Jayme and Amanda. We will all cherish all the special memories and times we've spent together over the last 26.5 years and it was an honour to be considered your Canadian kid and family. Love you then, love you now and forever ♥♥♥♥



March 20 at 9:03 PM



Cherie Hall posted:

Jan called herself my husband Don's other wife! Whenever she needed something he was there to help our friend and neighbor! Countless nights playing cards with Jan and Jim. Cherie, how did you make that food you served us...I need the recipe. Cherie, I'm running for union rep can you help me make a good photo for my campaign. Don can you fix my rocking chair. Countless weekly trips to Novi to see her. Hope Don finds you up there in heaven! Going to miss you and all of our talks! Friend for 50 years! Lots of good memories! Fly with the Angels my dear friend! Cherie Hall

March 20 at 8:56 PM



Media

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Gee Gee Lawless shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

March 20 at 10:44 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Janice by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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