



## Joan M. Gawron

June 9, 1933 - January 13, 2021

Joan M. Gawron, age 87, passed away Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at the Poppen Residence. She was born on June 9, 1933 in Muskegon to Joseph and Eloise (Gosselin) Dault and resided in the Muskegon area all of her life. Early on, Joan worked at Shaw Walker, and then as manager of the rectory at St. Jean Baptiste Catholic Church. She then worked for 18 years at the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District as a mental health aide before retiring. Joan touched so many lives, as a wife, mom, grandma, aunt or friend. She was very active in the Muskegon community and enjoyed walking with her corporate cup group from South Shores, being one of the top volunteers for the USS Silversides Museum and being a resource and supporter of the USS LST Museum, working with the Muskegon County Genealogy Society and the Lakeshore Museum Center, dedicated 30 years to the Goodfellows / Old News Boys, and being the founding member of the Marsh Field Neighborhood Association. Joan also loved attending the Irish and Polish Festivals, and was a proud Union member. A friend of the family said, "We know Joan is giving St. Peter a few lessons on Muskegon's deep and rich history". Joan was the ultimate mother of the community, and always had a clear understanding of "who is my neighbor" and "... they are my brother, and my sister, and my mother." She would often be heard saying, "Until you have the whole meal of life, you can't have the dessert of eternity!". There was never a time when there wasn't a cot for someone to sleep on, or an extra place at the table for someone who needed it, to share that meal and hopefully that dessert. Because of her embrace of all human kind Joan will be cherished for all time as a jewel of jewels by her grandchildren, nieces, nephews, friends and one time strangers. On June 27, 1953 she married Henry J. Gawron and he preceded her in death on March 11, 2004 after 50 years of marriage. SURVIVORS include three children, Steve (Sue Paulson) Gawron, Mary Lousie (Harold) LaBelle and James (Amy) Gawron; 9 grandchildren, Todd Tueling, Jacob Gawron, Brittni, Derek and Gabrielle (Jake) LaBelle, Jim, Daniel, Elizabeth and Adam Gawron; 13 great grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Margaret Gawron, Mary Lund, and Betty Dault; and many nieces and nephews. Joan was also preceded in death by her siblings, Richard Dault, Raymond Dault, Barbara Faucher, Robert Dault, Clarence Dault, and Stanley Dault. The family would like to give a special thanks to her home healthcare angels. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a Celebration of Life for Joan will be announced at

a later time. Private family internment will take place at St. Mary's Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Joan's name may be made to the [USS Silversides Museum]<https://shop.silversidesmuseum.org/collections/donations> or [Lakeshore Museum Center]<https://lakeshoremuseum.org/donate/>. Share memories with the family online at [www.sytsemafh.com](http://www.sytsemafh.com). Arrangements by The Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 6291 S. Harvey St. Norton Shores, MI 49444 (231) 798-1100.

# Comments

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“ Sending condolences to the entire Gawron family from the O'Toole's & Brautigam's - Margaret O'Toole

Margaret O'Toole - January 24 at 05:31 PM

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“ Steve and family -- sorry to hear of your mother's passing. Holding you in my thoughts and prayers.



Phil Sielski - January 18 at 12:34 PM

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“ Loved volunteering at the USS Silversides with Joan. She brought joy and laughter everywhere she went. She will be deeply missed.

Susan Strum - January 18 at 09:54 AM

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“ We loved working with Joan packing bags for Goodfellow. She was always a ray of sunshine. Warm and caring. She will be missed. You are in our prayers.

Steve and Laura Bailey

Laura Bailey - January 18 at 08:00 AM

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“ Was so sorry ,Joan was always with a smile ,Mom always like her ,said she would make her night at the ballpark. Just want you to know Thoughts and prayers are going your way. Love Dee SaintAmour

Dolores St.Amour - January 16 at 11:39 PM



“ Steve, MaryLouise, Jim, and your families:

I explained to my kids when they were very young and lost a loved one that we are placed here on earth as a vacation. While on vacation, we always pick up souvenirs. Momma Joan was on the vacation to top all vacations! All you need to do is look at her wonderful family and her large number of friends to see how many “souvenirs” she picked up along her way! I have so many awesome memories of Howden Street and the Gawrons!

Rest in God’s Eternal Peace, Momma Joan! You are missed by so many!

Sandy (Alvesteffer) Neff



**Sandy Neff** - January 16 at 03:36 PM

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“ Such wonderful memories of working with Joan at Goodfellows for all those years,(all those various buildings) such a caring/friendly person. Always smiling.

Dave & Connie Pinder  
Sharon Dungan

**Connie Pinder** - January 16 at 03:34 PM

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“ I met Joan when I was with the Nim’s Neighborhood Association. She was always happy, full of life, and always quick with a history lesson. I looked forward to our annual visits when picking up toys for distribution from the “Old Newsies”. Always greeted with a hug and quick catch up on family and neighbors. She will be missed, loved by all who knew her, and remembered for her kindness and love of Muskegon. Rest In Peace Joan.

**Bob Grabinski** - January 16 at 10:01 AM

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“ When I started working at South Shores, Joanie immediately took me under her wing. She showed so much love and compassion to the students. It was always a pleasure and fun to work with her! She lived her faith.

And Joanie, I still have our secret!  
Love  
Brenda Hodson  
Dade City, Florida

**Brenda Hodson** - January 16 at 08:51 AM

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“ I was blessed to have known Joan since 1982 when I worked with her at South Shores. We had many years of morning walks before going to work. She was a great friend and I will always remember our phone calls to each other or just visiting with our morning coffee. You will be missed my friend! Thank you for our friendship, I have so many great memories! Linda Little Lynn

**Linda Little Lynn** - January 16 at 06:56 AM

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“ Jim, Steve and family,  
My deepest sympathy to all of you. Your mom was a remarkable woman who was kind to everyone and such a great role model. She will be missed.

Mary Jean O'Connor

**mary oconnor** - January 15 at 11:30 PM

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“ Lord, please hold this family close in your love and care. Our prayer to God is to tell Joan how much we love and miss her, everyday. Our connection as family is forever. We are so grateful we'll be in heaven with our loved ones, someday. John 3:16 .Love you all, Lou our love and hugs to you, sweet one....Mom Sharon, Tracy, Nanette, Zavian, Caden, Kelysse

**Tracy LaBelle** - January 15 at 09:48 PM

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“ Although my time with Joan was short, the impact she had on me and my life is unmeasurable. She was such a sweet soul and really knew what unconditional love meant. She loved her kids and grandkids and loved to tell stories about them. She will truly be missed. Fly high Joan!!!

**Kate Bailey** - January 15 at 06:27 PM

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“ I was blessed to have known Joan for the last 13 years. We met in St. Mary's Cemetery while doing research and became fast friends. I was drawn to her bubbly personality and her love of life. We shared an interest in genealogy and Muskegon history. She was a wealth of information! I am grateful for the times we spent together each week working on her projects and she had lots of projects!. She would make me smile whenever she talked about her children and grandchildren because she would just glow with love and pride for them. Joan will always be one of the most special people in my life and I will miss her deeply.

**Frances Harrington** - January 15 at 05:50 PM

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“ I am so sorry for your loss. Joan was a great help to me when I was involved with Marsh Field Neighborhood Association. She was a wealth of history.

**Ann Martin** - January 15 at 05:45 PM