



## D. Jean Burns

March 1, 1932 - May 13, 2019

D. Jean Burns left to go be with her Lord and Savior on May 13th, 2019. She passed peacefully at her home surrounded by her loved ones.

Jean was born in Cooper Township to Jennie (Timmerman) and Harm Veldt, Sr. on March 1, 1932, the 7th of 8 children. She grew up in Texas Township on the family farm and graduated from Mattawan Schools. Due to the generosity of her sister Ruth and her own determination, she attended and graduated from Hope College, Holland, MI with a BA in education.

Jean taught in various schools including Scotts, Brandywine/Niles and Edwardsburg, until moving to Waverly Township. She taught Physical Education at Bloomingdale Public Schools and established girls athletics in an era that women's sports were not particularly encouraged. She began a basketball and softball program as well as the Girls Athletic Association (GAA) to introduce sports to girls. She mentored and supported many young women in life's lessons and surrounded her girls with much love. Jean and her husband Lewis also began a Youth Fellowship at Townline Methodist church, where she again mentored many young people.

Jean and Lewis were married June 14th, 1957. They had natural children, Cheryl (Russell) Sullins and Craig (Jan) Burns. Another daughter, Hulda (Wilson) Gruenewald joined the family in 1966. She is survived by her

youngest brother, Frank Veldt; 8 grandchildren; 8 great grandchildren; as well as several nieces and nephews. Her daughter Hulda preceded her in death in 2012.

Jean had a very active spiritual life and delighted in sharing her faith in Christ with others. She was a prayer warrior and loved sharing the Bible with people. Her mentoring overflowed to this area of her life. She and her Bloomingdale prayer group helped pray Christian Fellowship into existence, where her passion for mentoring still continues.

Jean will be remembered for her love of words, reading various genre of books, memorizing and quoting scriptures. She has passed on her love of gardening, preserving of harvested food, quilting and rug weaving to the next generation. Jean will be greatly missed by her family, friends and acquaintances.

According to her wishes, a private burial will take place at Glendale Cemetery. A celebration of life will be held Sunday, May 19, 2019 from 3-5 PM at Townline United Methodist Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Christian Fellowship or Hospice of Southwest Michigan. Those who wish to donate time or materials may contact Laurie Abbott, Ramp Up Program of Disability Network of Southwest Michigan.

# Cemetery Details

## Glendale Cemetery

CR 665 South of M-43  
Paw Paw, MI

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAY 19. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Townline United Methodist Church  
41470 24th Ave.  
Bloomingdale, MI

# Tribute Wall

JA

“Wow, I just find out about my Gun Teacher Mrs. Burns. The Child voices in me is screaming "she took me camping to Wisconsin Dells!!!" It was a very happy time in my life. She taught us about camping & living off the land. We went down the rivers in the Dells & I did not fear anything, because she protected us & we all trusted her to keep us all safe.. She was stern to teach us to respect our Elders, but she showed us how to be strong respectable Women. She invested time in us & never made any promises she did not keep. I learned to play basketball, volleyball & other games under her Teaching. She was a big Deal in our lives. Our unsinkable Molly Brown who was always at school no matter the weather when we arrived. She was a permanent fixture at school long after I graduated. I SEND many Hugs to her Family. May Mrs. Burns now rest her Soul. She accomplished a lot in her lifetime. She influence a lot of lives. We were blessed & happy she was our Teacher. I can still hear our speakers squeaking across the gym floors as she blew her whistle hard & order us to do one more lap! LOL! I wish those days never ended. We will miss you

 Mrs. Burns 

Always,

Judy Adams~Crawford

Michael C. Adams

Marlena Adams~Smith

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**Judy Adams~Crawford** - August 30, 2021 at 02:12 AM

RS

“Mrs. Burns was my PE teacher, class of 1976. She was a stern but caring person, always could make you smile in her witty way. She taught me that ‘Life wasn’t fair but you have to push forward’ can’t count the amount of times she said that! Wonderful lady and mentor. She will be missed by many.

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**Roberta Matthes Stegenga** - October 13, 2019 at 11:00 AM

PC

“ She was my phys ed teacher and I gave her a lot of problems I’m sure but she never gave up on me but she did send me to the library a lot to wear to write up about wearing my guys tonight my white shirt red colored shorts and my white socks my Dennis use yeah I wrote hundreds of those but I always had a great time with her sorry about your loss guys understand it

penny cantrell - May 17, 2019 at 06:54 AM

RS

I loved Mrs. Burns for my PE teacher. She was stern but really cared about all her students. Wonderful lady! She taught me that ‘ Life wasn’t always fair but you had to push forward’.

Roberta Matthes Stegenga - October 13, 2019 at 10:54 AM

DH

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to Mr Burns and the family. Was sorry to hear of Mrs Burns passing. She was my gym and health class teacher. We did alot of different things inour gym class than they do now,, we played tennis, did relays, the trampoline,oh so many things. Mr Burns was our counselor also, he was such a help to our family, our mother was very ill during our school years and he was always there to help us in any way he could. Made sure we had all the classes we would need towards graduation, all the way thru from 6th grade- 12th. I am sorry for your loss. Deana Vickery Hostetler.

deana hostetler - May 15, 2019 at 02:18 PM

TF

“ We thank the Lord for Grandma Jean’s remarkable example of living a life that reflects the Lord’s heart of unconditional love. We are abundantly blessed that the Lord allowed us to be grafted into her rich heritage in Christ. She is a woman to be greatly honored and we remain inspired by her legacy of faith.

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**The Oorjitham Family** - May 14, 2019 at 04:22 PM

EG

*I just learned of Mrs. Burns passing. I feel for her children and grandchildren because they all lost a wonderful Mother and Grandmother. I had Mrs. Burns for several years for Physical Education, beginning in 6th grade through high school. She was a terrific teacher and a very caring person, especially for her students. She was extremely empathetic toward her students and helped them in all the ways she could. She certainly was a very empathetic and caring person toward me. I loved and admired the person she was! I wish I was able to visit her over the years. My heartfelt sympathies go out to her family; may God be with all of you as you are missing a wonderful lady! My heartfelt sympathies, Elaine Hendrix Gibbs*

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**Elaine Hendrix Gibbs** - August 07, 2022 at 04:37 PM