



## Joyce Shell

March 22, 1938 - July 21, 2022

Joyce Elaine (Davidge) Shell passed away peacefully on July 21, 2022. She was 84.

Joyce was born on March 22, 1938 and grew up in Redford, MI with her parents and 2 siblings. She graduated from Redford Union High School in 1956.

Joyce attended Ferris State University and played in the band. That's where she met her husband Robert Shell, a happy-go-lucky drummer who made her laugh. They married shortly after graduation.

Robert passed away far too soon leaving Joyce with 4 young children to raise on her own.

She worked in the Utica Community School district until her retirement in 1999. She taught typing and shorthand and later worked as an administrator at Utica High School. She was inducted into the Utica Athletic Hall of Fame for her work with the Athletic Department.

Joyce had a love of travel, something she passed on to her kids, and would spend many summers taking them to Michigan's state parks and other parts of the country. After her retirement Joyce would regularly drive around the

country visiting family and friends. She also loved crossword puzzles, taking walks, attending her grandkid's activities and anything involving chocolate.

She was a long time member of Utica United Methodist Church where she humbly and quietly served for over 40 years.

Joyce was predeceased by her husband Robert, her parents, George and Ardis Davidge, sister Nancy, brother Ken and grandson Drew Benge. She leaves behind her daughter Wendy (Darren) Benge, son Dean (Stephanie), daughter Karen (John) Ribbing and son Scott (Jodie). She was a grandma/magra to Jennifer, Jake, Drew, Hannah, Michael, Garrett, Nick, Emily, Evan, Becky and Luke.

The family would be remiss to not mention the family friends Bob and Karen Fisher and Oakley and Karen Lutes who were a big part of Joyce's life and so helpful assisting her as a single mom.

A visitation will take place on Friday (July 29th) at the Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home 8459 Hall Rd. (3Blks east of Van Dyke) Utica, from 2pm - 8pm. Funeral Service for Joyce will take place on Saturday (July 30th) at the Utica United Methodist Church 8650 Canal Rd. Sterling Heights. She will lie in state at 1:30pm until the time of service at 2pm. In lieu of flowers, the family is asking that you consider donating to one of Joyce's two favorite ministries. Her son Scott Shell is with East-West Ministries [www.eastwest.org/scottshell](http://www.eastwest.org/scottshell) or her grandson Nick Ribbing with Frontlines Detroit <https://frontlines-detroit.org/donate/>

# Cemetery Details

## Utica Cemetery

46325 Shelby Road  
Utica, MI 48317

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL **29**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
utica@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Funeral Service

JUL **30**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Utica United Methodist Church  
8650 Canal Rd.  
Sterling Heights, MI 48314

# Tribute Wall



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joyce Shell.* ”



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July 29, 2022 at 12:16 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joyce Shell.* ”



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July 29, 2022 at 11:26 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joyce Shell.* ”



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July 29, 2022 at 09:22 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joyce Shell.* ”



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July 28, 2022 at 09:32 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket* was purchased for the family of Joyce Shell.



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July 27, 2022 at 05:16 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms* was purchased for the family of Joyce Shell.



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July 27, 2022 at 09:13 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Joyce Shell.



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July 26, 2022 at 10:26 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Joyce Shell.



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July 25, 2022 at 06:57 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Joyce Shell.*



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July 24, 2022 at 09:16 PM



“ *I first knew her as Mrs. Shell, the nice lady that worked at Utica High School with the beautiful daughter!*

*Once I started dating that daughter I knew her as Karen's mom, I saw a tough, strong, independent woman that accepted me unconditionally.*

*I next knew her as a mother-in-law, and she was a great one. Always there to support Karen and I. Helping us in any and every way. I have the fondest memories of her helping us find our house.*

*Next I knew her as a grandmother to our children. She was an awesome one too. She loved hanging out with them, watching their activities: going to football games which hated and on road trips which she loved.*

*The one thing in common in all of the phases was her incredible faith. She lived out her faith every day. She possessed a quiet strength that was built on a love of Jesus and refined from being a single mom for over 50 years.*

*She was an incredible woman. She was the matriarch of her family, a role that she accepted reluctantly but performed wonderfully.*

*I will miss you Red.*

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John Ribbing - July 23, 2022 at 12:30 PM

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“Joyce and her husband were close college friends. Joyce was a special person and when I moved to Utica, we spent many good times together. I so sorry for her family's loss, but I'm sure she's in a better place. My prayers are with Joyce's family, Wendy, Karen, Dean, Scott and their families. I'm so sorry for your loss. Frank Lukowski

Frank J Lukowski - July 23, 2022 at 01:00 AM



“Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joyce Shell.



July 22, 2022 at 08:07 PM



“Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joyce Shell.



July 22, 2022 at 07:27 PM



“Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Joyce Shell.



July 22, 2022 at 06:08 PM