



## Doris Jean Bicknell

December 20, 1928 - May 27, 2025

Doris Jean Bicknell, 96, died in her home in Clare, Michigan Tuesday evening, May 27, 2025.

Sharp and independent to the end, Doris was an avid crossworder, a connoisseur of mystery novels, and made a mean key lime pie. She had just returned from the other state that she called home, Florida, where she had been recovering well from a broken hip.

She was born December 20, 1928, in Logan, Ohio to William and Eunice (Ryder) Poling. The youngest of four children, Doris grew up in Mt. Pleasant, where she graduated high school in 1947.

Doris received a degree in Primary Education from Central Michigan University, where she met her husband, James Stuart Bicknell III, while she was working in the library. Jim and Doris were married in Clare on April 7, 1950. She wore an aqua dress. She and her husband had many adventures and endeavors together. While Jim studied law, Doris taught kindergarten in Detroit. Doris was Jim's right hand in his many businesses, including legal, real estate, horse and dog racing, charter boat (becoming a captain before him), and Lincoln Gun Club. Jim even convinced Doris to take flight lessons, though she quickly decided the pilot's life was not for her. Doris was a tireless volunteer, including church officer, 4H leader, high school trip chaperone, and assistant dogsled race timer. She helped lead a horse ride across Michigan's Shore-to-Shore

Trail in 1966.

She was predeceased by her husband who died on April 5, 2007, a son, William, and her daughter-in-law, Nancy Bicknell. Despite missing her husband fiercely, Doris continued to charm those around her and enjoyed another 18 years of life. She loved her dogs, with her special favorites, Montana and Dakota, driving for many years between Michigan and Florida to take them with her on her annual snowbird pilgrimage to Duck Key.

To know Doris was to know these things about her: she was left-handed which she found

challenging due to the stigma around it as she was growing up. She loved the TV show

M\*A\*S\*H and was delighted when her grandchildren gifted her the complete box set for her

birthday. Her preferred crooner was Crosby, not Sinatra. Doris liked her coffee percolated. She was fond of ice cream, especially coffee and spumoni flavors. Doris grew tomatoes and would make you a fried green one on the spot. Her artistry included knitting, tiling, and homemade mustard. She was neat, humble, occasionally sarcastic, and secretly sentimental—always grateful and gracious to those who cared for her, and she for them.

She is survived by three children and their partners, Belinda Bicknell and Gary Witus of Ann Arbor, Deborah Bicknell and Chuck Smith of Canal Winchester, OH, and James Bicknell IV and Susan Kleinhans of Midland. She had five grandchildren, James (Kayla) Bicknell V, Lily (CJ) Snyder, Heather Bicknell and Connor Davidson, Alex Witus, Kathryn Bicknell and Jesse Chen. She also had two great-grandchildren, Axel and Brandt Snyder, with two more on the way. Doris also leaves behind many other family members and friends who will sorely miss her.

Visitation will be Thursday, June 5, 2025, from 4-7 p.m. at Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home of Clare. Funeral services will be held at the Clare Congregational Church at 11 a.m. on Friday, June 6, 2025, with pastor Connie

Bongard officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to the Bicknell Nursing

Scholarship at Mid-Michigan Community College, 1375 S. Clare Avenue, Harrison, MI, 48625.

Doris was famous for her catchphrases. Among them, she coined "Duck Key Midnight." When the clock struck 9:00, Doris would declare midnight, blow kisses, and retire to her room. Though her final Duck Key Midnight has come, her legacy and memory will live on in all who love her.

# Cemetery Details

## Cherry Grove Cemetery

1000 Cedar St.  
Clare, MI 48617

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 5. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Stephenson - Wyman Funeral Home (Clare)  
1005 North McEwan St.  
Clare, MI 48617  
(989) 386-7451  
[wymanfh@chartermi.net](mailto:wymanfh@chartermi.net)  
<https://www.stephenson-wyman.com/>

## Service

JUN 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

Clare Congregational United Church of Christ  
110 W. Fifth Street  
Clare, MI 48617

# Tribute Wall

TB

“ I feel grateful for the time I spent with Doris, a truly remarkable woman whose kindness, humor, and wit had a profound impact on everyone around her, leaving behind a legacy of love, laughter, and cherished memories. (“Duck Key Midnight” 💕)

Tiffani Bires - June 18, 2025 at 10:20 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Doris Jean Bicknell.



June 09, 2025 at 09:26 AM

JN

“ I cherished every moment with Doris. She told you what to do and you did it!! No questions. I will dearly miss her Key Lime Pie and homemade mustard. Many sandwiches tasted so much better out on the ocean while fishing!

jeff newman - June 04, 2025 at 06:18 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Doris Jean Bicknell.



June 04, 2025 at 10:46 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Doris Jean Bicknell.

June 04, 2025 at 10:46 AM



“ Doris and the entire Bicknell family will always hold a special place in my heart. We all had such good times as kids at the Bicknell farm, riding our horses, walking, 4-H, Tree forts, swimming in the lake or grandma Bicknell's pool. Doris was Always so encouraging and kind. I always admired her enthusiasm and grace. During a visit a few years ago , she still called us “her girls” - Love to you all - Holly

Holly - June 03, 2025 at 09:38 PM



“ George and Kathy Conder purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Doris Jean Bicknell.



George and Kathy Conder - June 03, 2025 at 04:40 PM



“ Tranquil Seas was purchased for the family of Doris Jean Bicknell.



June 03, 2025 at 12:16 PM



“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Doris Jean Bicknell.*



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June 03, 2025 at 12:10 PM



“ *Got to know and love Doris at Jan's Coachlight Resteraunt. She was Wonderful lady! R.I.P.*

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**Barb Longstreth** - June 03, 2025 at 10:59 AM



“ *The Gershon Family purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Doris Jean Bicknell.*



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**The Gershon Family** - June 02, 2025 at 01:52 PM