



## Judy L. Wachowiak

September 7, 1954 - September 20, 2024

Surrounded by family, Judy Lynn Wachowiak, 70, of Midland, passed away peacefully on Friday, September 20, 2024, at the Corewell Health Hospital of Grand Rapids, Fred & Lena Meijer Heart Center.

She was born September 7, 1954, in Mt. Pleasant, the daughter of Ronald and Myrtle Wachowiak. When Judy was in middle school, the family moved to Farwell where she later graduated. She secured a job with Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, where she was employed for 43 years as the executive secretary to the Director. She was professional, confidential, and shared her knowledge and experience with others. She was a highly valued asset to MDHHS.

It is a rare occurrence in our lives when someone comes along that touches the soul of every person they meet. Judy was one of those people. She was the epitome of a sweet, caring, loyal, kind and fun-loving person. People were drawn to her as she was always the life of the party. She had many life-long friends, and to them, it felt like a sisterhood.

The oldest of five, Judy fiercely loved her family, and they easily returned that love. She was the beloved Aunt Jude to all her nieces and nephews who cherished her deeply, especially during their one-on-one weekends with her. She made them feel loved and treasured, and she nurtured them when they needed it. One characterized her as being like a nice, warm hug.

She was loving as well as lovable; a good person to lean on in joy, despair, or grief. She was a good listener. When someone was in need, Judy was

generous with her time and jumped right in to help. Her laughter was very much a part of her.

Judy was very well known for her cooking, especially comfort food. She fed you, laughed with you, cried with you, and loved on you.

She will forever be remembered, as well, for the Christmas Bags she was famous for.

Judy faced her lung disease with bravery, resilience, and determination, a struggle that ultimately took her from us far too soon.

Survivors include the love of her life, Wayne Reinberg, sisters Debora (Gary) Klunzinger of Mt. Pleasant, Patricia (John) Mishler of Beaverton, brother, Ronald (Betty) Wachowiak of Hallettsville, TX, sister-in-law (sister by choice), Sue Wachowiak of Farwell, as well as many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Douglas Wachowiak.

Cremation has occurred and a Memorial Service to honor her life will be held on Sunday, May 18, 2025, 3:00 PM at the Clare United Methodist Church. A light meal will follow the service. You are invited to share an online condolence message with her family on Judy's Tribute Page at [www.stephenson-wyman.com](http://www.stephenson-wyman.com)

Memorial contributions in her honor may be made to [Gift of Life.org](http://GiftofLife.org)

# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Cemetery

1409 N. Fancher Avenue  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAY 18. 3:00 PM (ET)

Clare United Methodist Church  
105 E. Seventh Street  
Clare, MI 48617

*A light meal will follow the service*

# Tribute Wall

JF

“ Judy's grandparents were friends of my parents in our younger days. We were like sisters ,bffs for sure. So much love and laughter around. Lost touch a bit except for cards life happens but eventually got back to days of shopping and lunches. Even when ill she was full of optimism.  
Love ya Judy. Janet aka Pete Glover Fitzpatrick.

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**JANET M FITZPATRICK** - May 14, 2025 at 10:25 PM

LC

“ Love, Carol, Hallie, Nick, and Calvin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judy L. Wachowiak.

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**Love, Carol, Hallie, Nick, and Calvin** - May 11, 2025 at 01:15 AM

LC

“ Love, Carol, Hallie, Nick, and Calvin purchased the *Your Light Shines* for the family of Judy L. Wachowiak.



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**Love, Carol, Hallie, Nick, and Calvin** - May 11, 2025 at 01:15 AM

PA

“ 5 files added to the album JUDY



Patricia - September 28, 2024 at 08:48 AM

AA

“ Oh Jude... :(

*Jude was my “work mom” for 8 years before she retired. She was my co-captain of the State vehicles when we traveled between the two and three counties we covered. I will forever cherish our talks, our laughs, our lunches (cuz we were always down for lunch out even if we packed lunches lol). You had a great heart and would do anything for anybody. We always had fun cat stories to share, especially you, since you like 500 lol. We both adored Simon’s Cat videos on facebook!! I always shared them with you when I saw them as they just made me miss you. I am so honored to have known you and felt your love. The world has lost one of the best and you are going to be so greatly missed. Hugs to you in Heaven my sweet friend.*

*Love, Andi*

Andi Ayres - September 27, 2024 at 05:16 PM

AW

“ Jude was my neighbor for 7 years. We spent many evenings talking and laughing on her front porch. She was wickedly funny, smart, kind and welcoming. She always had a story to tell, wisdom to share and advice to give. When I first moved in, I remember thinking, what will I do about all these damn cats?! But she loved and cared for them all so well and very quickly I appreciated their presence and hers in my daily life. She was a dear friend to me in those years and I'm sorry that we lost touch when I moved downstate. I have so many special memories with her and Wayne. I'm deeply saddened to learn of her passing. I will always miss her and lovingly remember her.

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**Amanda Wilbur** - September 27, 2024 at 03:34 PM

JO

“ I remember going to Aunt Juds house when Mel and I were in college, to do laundry. It was always nice to visit her and Wayne, have some home cooked food, and share jokes. Aunt Jude was a very kind person, and she will be missed.

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**Jon** - September 27, 2024 at 01:37 PM

JF

“ Judy my dear cousin was a beautiful light in this world. We played together as children and had recently reconnected. She was indeed loved by everyone who knew her. She will be shining bright from above.

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**Jan Finkbeiner** - September 27, 2024 at 12:12 PM