



Jo Ann Bauer Kovach

October 7, 1938 - April 6, 2026

Jo Ann Bauer Kovach, 87, of North Myrtle Beach, SC, died at Novant New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, NC on April 6, 2026.

Jo Ann was born in Wheeling, WV on October 7, 1938, to the late Martin Louis and Elizabeth Blazek Bauer. She was a retired Registered Nurse whose life was marked by compassion, strength, and devotion to others. She graduated from the Wheeling Hospital School of Nursing, Class of 1959 where she learned hands on at Children's Hospital in Columbus, OH and St. Frances Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA. She later worked at St. Joseph's Hospital in Parkersburg, WV.

In 1962, she married the late Walter Arthur Kovach. They lived in Columbus, OH for many years before retiring to North Myrtle Beach, SC. She was a devout Catholic, being a parishioner of St. Andrew Catholic Church (OH), and later, Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church (SC). She volunteered for several years at Grand Strand Medical Center in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Her greatest role, however, was that of mother and grandmother. She was deeply devoted to her daughter, Heddy Kovach Clark. Their bond was one of enduring love, closeness, and mutual devotion, and Jo Ann was profoundly proud of the woman her daughter became. Her motherly love extended to her son-in-law, James Clark, who truly became a son to her and whose steadfast

support and loving presence she cherished. She also adored her grandson, Grayson Clark, in whom she found so much joy, pride, and happiness. Watching him grow was a great blessing of her later years, and she loved him beyond measure.

She is survived by her daughter, Heddy Kovach Clark; her son-in-law, James Clark; her grandson, Grayson Clark, all of Wilmington, NC; one sister, Betty Lou Carter (Gerald Carter) of Morgantown, WV, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at Our Lady Star of The Sea Catholic Church. Entombment will follow at a later date in Parkersburg, WV.

Memorials may be made to the Wheeling Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Scholarship Fund (c/o Theresa B. Leo, Treasurer WHSNAA, Rockledge Road, Wheeling, WV 26003) and the Grand Strand Medical Center Volunteer Auxiliary Health Profession Scholarship Fund (call 216- 256-7638 for more information).

Tribute Wall

SB

“ Dear Heddy and family: Sorry to learn of the passing of Cousin JoAnn. She was a lovely person. Our prayers are with you.
Sally and Chris Bowie

Sally Bowie - April 11 at 07:36 PM

JH

“ Joann was a wonderful friend and neighbor. We each owned a condo at The Summit for the past 50 some years. We also shared frequent lunches and outings as well as religious booklets from her Catholic Church and my Methodist church. She will be sadly missed

Jean Holmes - April 09 at 06:01 PM

EC

My good friend joann will be missed so much. We shared so many things- Nursing Talks, Church Activities, Lunches on Wednesdays, Books and discussing them, and she always kept me up on all the activities that her grandson was doing .I loved all that. She was wonderful to me in Oct when my own sister passed. She was truly one of the greatest friends I ever had and I will miss her with all my heart
❤️ All the fun and laughter we shared will for ever remain with me. My Love to you . Your forever friend Ellie 💕

Eleanor Chuba - April 11 at 07:24 PM

JC

“ Photo link: <https://www.atlanticcremation.com/m/obituaries/jo-ann-kovach/media/album/65da3025-df32-4e9e-9691-a364db48ac3c>

Jim Clark - April 09 at 04:04 PM