



## Mrs. Joal Kay Bydalek (Ripstra)

November 17, 1938 - February 27, 2020

Joal Kay Bydalek (Ripstra), born November 17, 1938 was met at heaven's gate on February 27, 2020 by her sons, David and Gregory. Joal was an exceptional wife, mother, sister, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend and mentor. She especially enjoyed attending her children's athletic events, playing cards, swimming in Lake Michigan and spending time with family. Survivors include James, her loving husband of 59 years, their children, Laura (Greg) Adams (Renton, WA), James (Lesa) Bydalek (Shelby Township), Julie (Art) Tolfree (Saginaw), Jill (John) Holkeboer (Grand Rapids) and her siblings, Timothy (Dawn) Ripstra (Texas) and Nancy Ulrich (Florida). She will also be fondly remembered by her 11 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. Joal graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in chemistry. She was a teacher in her early career and later became president of Dewey Products. After the death of her son David, she earned her Master of Social Work at WMU and spent the rest of her career counseling families with terminally ill children. She built the Total Life Counseling program at Arbor Circle (Advisory Center for Teens) that focused on families dealing with terminal illnesses. As an active volunteer in the local community, she coached her daughters' NWLL softball teams and served as a member of the Comstock Park School Board and PTA. She was a founding board member of the Grand Rapids Ronald McDonald House and volunteered as a Special Days Camp Counselor for many years. Visitation with the family will be Tuesday, March 3, 5-8 PM at Arsulowicz Brothers Mortuaries, 585 Stocking Avenue NW, Grand Rapids. A private memorial service will be held at a future date. The family would like to give special thanks to Faith Hospice for their exceptional care of Joal. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Faith Hospice here: <https://faithhospicecare.org/donate/>.

# Events

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**MAR**   **Visitation**   05:00PM - 08:00PM

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West Chapel

585 Stocking Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI, US, 49504

# Comments

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“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



**Jill Bydalek-Holkeboer** - February 29, 2020 at 10:20 AM