



Charlene Saunders

January 10, 1941 - March 14, 2025

Charlene Harris Saunders, 84, beloved mother, grandmother, and Hall of Fame Soccer Mom, passed away in the early morning hours on Friday, March 14, 2025, at Reedsburg Area Medical Center in Reedsburg, WI.

She was born on January 10, 1941, in Indianapolis, IN to Edward and Dorothy (Johnson) Harris.

Charlene graduated from George Washington High School in 1959 in Indianapolis, IN. She spent the next two years working for the Air Force to save enough money to put herself through college. Charlene, and only Charlene, paid for her own college education. She pursued a degree in Education and graduated from Olivet Nazarene College in 1966 with a certification to teach emotionally challenged children and adults.

Her first job out of college was at the Kankakee State Hospital where she thrived as a caring, nurturing teacher. Charlene claimed that this first teaching position was her all-time favorite, despite how challenging it was. Her students' progress always motivated her. Her devotion to them spoke volumes about her loving soul.

In 1967, on a Friday night in Spring Lake, WI, Charlene would meet the love of her life. Although Jerry was from Detroit and Charlene was from Indianapolis, they were unaware that they had mutual friends in Norris and Mickey Hoggset. The rest was history: Charlene and Jerry would marry on March 23, 1968.

They later had two sons, Scott and Todd, and eventually settled down in

Racine, WI where Charlene worked at the Racine County Courthouse for 19 years. One of Charlene's biggest joys was watching her two sons play soccer. Charlene was the ultimate fan and her rallying cry was "AWRITA!" It became synonymous with her super fandom. She even put the word on her license plate.

After retirement, Charlene and Jerry moved to Reedsburg, WI to be closer to their son, Scott. During this time, they were blessed with becoming grandparents, and Char would become the ultimate.

Char and Jerry loved volunteering at West Elementary and Al Berhman Elementary schools in Baraboo, WI. They were both revered as "Grandma and Grandpa" to all the classes they volunteered for. It was common to see "their" kids run to them in places like Walmart with outstretched arms ready for a hug. In 2017, they won the Al Behrman Award for contributions to the students and inspiring others to do the same.

One of Charlene's greatest assets was her smile. It was as warm and genuine as we all know her soul to be. Her divine soul permeated through her beautiful blue eyes. To know Char was to love her.

Charlene's force was kindness and that was her ultimate power. Thank you, mom, for everything. You are SO missed.

Charlene is survived by her husband of 57 years, Jerry; sons, Scott (Niki) Saunders, Todd (Sandy) Saunders; grandchildren, Jackson Bruce, Maya Shay, Saizzi Shay-Saunders, and George Saunders; sister Cathey (Medy Myers) Moore, and brother Bill Harris. She is further survived by much loved nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, nephew William Harris, and sister-in-law, Phyllis Harris.

In lieu of memorials, the family requests a donation be made to the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

Memorial service will be held at Sturino Funeral Home on Friday, April 4, 2025 at 5 p.m. There will be a visitation at the funeral home on Friday from 4 p.m. until time of service.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 4. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Sturino Funeral Home
3014 Northwestern Avenue
Racine, WI 53404
(262) 632-4479
info@sturinofuneralhome.com

Memorial Service

APR 4. 5:00 PM (CT)

Sturino Funeral Home
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info@sturinofuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Loved being a soccer mom with Char. She made all the games and tournaments fun. I will miss our daily phone calls. My sincere condolences to Jerry and family. Rest in peace my dear friend.* ”

Joan Pettit - April 03, 2025 at 11:14 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Charlene Saunders.* ”

April 03, 2025 at 05:59 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Charlene Saunders.* ”



April 03, 2025 at 05:59 PM



“ *Your AI Behrman Elementary Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Charlene Saunders.* ”



Your AI Behrman Elementary Family - April 02, 2025 at 10:10 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Charlene Saunders.



April 02, 2025 at 09:53 AM



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

April 02, 2025 at 09:53 AM



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

April 01, 2025 at 03:09 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Charlene Saunders.



April 01, 2025 at 03:09 PM



“ Charlene was the mom of Scott and Todd who were good friends of my late son. She was such a lovely person. My best to Jerry, Scott and Todd and their families.

Pam Nees - March 27, 2025 at 06:00 PM

AD

“ *Rest in heaven, my beautiful friend*

April Dyess - March 27, 2025 at 11:43 AM

WC

“ *Charlene was the most compassionate and unselfish person I know! When my son had no transportation to soccer practice, Charlene would go out of her way to pick him up! My son went on to play soccer all the way through high school and college. He then became a coach-thanks to Charlene!*

Wendy Csik - March 26, 2025 at 02:26 PM

ST

“ *Saying goodbye to a very loving caring beautiful friend. Rest in peace Char.*

Sue Tishken - March 26, 2025 at 10:08 AM