



Johanna (Jo) Vander Schaaf went to her heavenly home on May 8, 2024, at the Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls, SD, at the age of 92. She was born on a farm near Hawarden, IA, on August 23, 1931, to William and Gertrude Van Zanten. She graduated from Western Christian High School at age 16.

Jo married Stuart Duane Vander Schaaf on March 6, 1950, in Rock Valley, IA. She often remarked that she certainly made good on her promise at their wedding: "Whither thou goest, I will go." During their 58 years together, Jo and Duane lived in nine states. Their son was born while Duane was stationed with the Army in Albuquerque, NM, and their daughter was born in Bellflower, CA, a few years after Duane began driving for Greyhound Bus Lines. Duane's job brought them back to Iowa and to North Dakota, Nebraska, and several other points west. After retiring, Jo and Duane spent winters in Arizona. Jo enjoyed seeing so much of the country, meeting people from all over, and making friends and memories during a life that reflected the saying "Home is where the heart is."

Over the years, Jo was employed in various jobs, including as a bank teller and hardware store clerk in Rock Valley and as a waitress in Fargo, ND; Denver, CO; and Omaha, NE. To relax, she enjoyed working crossword puzzles, completing jigsaw puzzles, and playing cards and word games. She was a particularly formidable though friendly opponent at Scrabble and Words With Friends. Jo loved laughing and reminiscing, spending time with friends, and simply being with her family. Although few family members lived near her, all were just a call, text, or FaceTime away, and she made the most of those connections.

Jo leaves a legacy of Christian love. She was a longtime member of First Christian Reformed Church of Rock Valley, participating in women's Bible studies and service groups. She prayed without ceasing for her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and friends and didn't hesitate to talk about her faith.

Jo is survived by her two children, Doug (Bernita) of Sioux Falls and Rachelle (Richard) Laliberte of Macungie, PA; five grandchildren (Andrea Rainbow, Katrin Johnson, Anthony Vander Schaaf, Jordan Laliberte, and Marissa Simonian); and nine great-grandchildren (Dorothy, Iris, and James Rainbow; Tatum, Tanner, and Cooper Johnson; Abram and Juniper Vander Schaaf; and Daniel Nakamori Laliberte). She is also survived by her two brothers, William Van Zanten and Gerald Van Zanten, as well as many cousins, nephews, and nieces.

Jo was preceded in death by her husband, Duane; her parents; and her sister, Bertha Roozeboom.

Celebrating the Life of Johanna (Jo) Vander Schaaf

August 23, 1931 ~ May 8, 2024

FUNERAL SERVICE

11:00 AM, Friday, May 17, 2024
First Christian Reformed Church
Rock Valley, Iowa

OFFICIANT

Rev. Matthew Haan

ACCOMPANIST

Beth Ten Haken

EULOGY

Doug Vander Schaaf

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Abide With Me"
Beth Ten Haken

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

"How Great Thou Art"
"I Believe in Christ Crucified"
"What Wondrous Love Is This"
"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

PALLBEARERS

Rich Laliberte ~ Kyle Johnson
Anthony Vander Schaaf ~ Jordan Laliberte
Jesse Rainbow ~ Benjamin Haan

MEMORIAL

Dougherty Hospice House
4509 Prince of Peace Place
Sioux Falls, SD 57117

INTERMENT

Valley View Cemetery
Rock Valley, Iowa

Jo's family invites everyone for a time of food and fellowship in the church fellowship hall following the committal service at the cemetery.

THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q 1. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**A 1. That I am not my own
but belong—
body and soul,
in life and in death—
to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.**

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me whole-heartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.



*In Loving Memory
Johanna Vander Schaaf*