



## Janet Locke

April 2, 1949 - January 18, 2024

Janet Sue (Wheeler) Locke was born April 2, 1949, in Humansville, Missouri, the second child of James Allen Wheeler and Lois Nadean (Jones) Wheeler. She passed away at Mercy Hospital in Springfield on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at the age of 74 years.

An innate love of family was cultivated in Janet from an early age. She truly treasured her childhood memories of growing up, playing with her Wheeler and Jones cousins. A natural-born leader, it was her mission to stay connected with their families even in adulthood. She loved sports of all kinds and knew the rules of every game she watched. She enjoyed nothing more than taking part in the lives of her grandchildren. She rarely missed an event and spoiled each one in her own special way. Janet made a new friend everywhere she went and thrived on reconnecting with long-ago friends, former schoolmates and students.

Growing up in Bolivar, Janet worked as a “soda jerk” at Jester’s on the town square. She was a 1967 graduate of Bolivar High School. Janet attended Southwest Baptist College before marrying James F. (Jim) Locke of Halfway on August 24, 1968, at Brighton Baptist Church. The two were privileged to share 55 years of marriage together.

After Jim’s discharge from the U.S. Air Force, the couple settled in Halfway to raise their family on a dairy farm. Growing up in town, Janet came to embrace the farm life and shared in the responsibilities that came with it. Janet sang with Sweet Adelines in the 1970s and seized every opportunity to be involved

her children's activities. After they were grown, Janet returned to college. She earned her undergraduate degree in education from Southwest Baptist University, and a master's and specialist's degree from Missouri State University.

In 2005, Janet and Jim moved to Bois D'Arc after selling their farm so they could be closer to work. Janet had a passion for youth and excelled in her career as an educator. She taught middle school science in the Humansville, Buffalo and Willard school districts before retiring in 2012.

Janet was a member of Bolivar First Baptist Church and had regularly attended Sac River Cowboy Church since moving to Bois D'Arc.

Janet loved nothing more than spending time with family and friends. She was always up for a gathering and coveted any opportunity to fellowship with others. She regularly attended outings with the Willard Middle School Retirees and especially enjoyed getting together with the Lunch Bunch, a treasured group of ladies sharing friendship for more than 55 years.

Janet was preceded in death by her parents and an infant brother, Ronald James Wheeler. She is survived by her husband, Jim, of the home; daughter, Joann, and husband, Jim Pipkin, Republic; son, Jason Locke and Junie, Stockton; grandchildren James William Cameron Locke and wife, Hannah, Stockton; John Connor Locke, Lebanon; Jera Vehige and husband, Kyle, Billings; Jay Clayton Locke and wife, Amy, Stockton; Jayden Cooper Locke, Bolivar; Sophia Yokley; and Jace Pipkin; and two great-grandchildren, James Locke and Cora Locke, and a baby girl due in May. Also surviving are her brother John Wheeler and wife, Joanna, Bolivar; and sister Brenda Potts and husband Randy, Bowie, Texas; sisters-in-law Jane McKinney, El Dorado Springs; Terri Locke, Halfway; and Debra Coppage and husband Carl, Bolivar; as well as nieces, nephews and cousins.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, from 12 to 1 p.m. with services to follow at 1 p.m. at Butler Funeral Home in Bolivar. Burial will follow at Reed Cemetery south of Halfway.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Sac River Cowboy Church, P.O.

Box 127, Willard, MO 65781, or to the Breast Cancer Foundation of the Ozarks, 620 W. Republic Road, Ste. 107, Springfield, MO 65807.

Time is the most precious gift we are given, and Janet freely gave hers to all who crossed her path. May we all give, love and serve others just as Janet did.

# Cemetery Details

## Reed Cemetery

Reed Cemetery  
Halfway, MO 65663

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 23. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Bolivar  
407 E. Broadway  
Bolivar, MO 65613  
(417) 326-5233  
<https://butlerfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral Service

JAN 23. 1:00 PM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Bolivar  
407 E. Broadway  
Bolivar, MO 65613  
(417) 326-5233  
<https://butlerfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall

NT

“ So saddened to hear of Janet’s passing. You have our deepest condolences. May your faith and wonderful memories of her bring you some peace and comfort. 🙏

*David and Nancy (Jones) Taylor*

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**Nancy (Jones) Taylor** - January 23, 2024 at 10:22 AM

KS

“ I have known Janet since I moved to Bolivar in the early 60’s. She had always been a friend during all the years I have known her. Be it to meet me in Branson for a quick holiday to helping to pick out spots for our reunions. Janet will be greatly missed by our Ckassmates and I will miss our phone calls and her updates on her family that she loved o much and always had an update on their sports endeavors. She LOVED her family and was always there for them and us. Rest in peace my dear friend till we see you again. Much love, Karen Webb Searcy

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**karen Webb Searcy** - January 22, 2024 at 10:23 PM

CJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Cami Jennings** - January 22, 2024 at 10:20 PM

JA

“ Jim and family, I was so shocked and saddened to hear of Janet’s passing. I recall her working at Jester’s when I would stop by there following school, taking school trips when I was in band and she participated in the bugle corp and of course attending all kinds of athletic events. I am out of state but wanted to reach out and express my sympathy and let you know that I am praying for your comfort and peace at this time of loss.

Jerald Andrews - January 22, 2024 at 05:13 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Janet Locke.



January 22, 2024 at 02:08 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Janet Locke.



January 22, 2024 at 12:37 PM



“ Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Janet Locke.



January 22, 2024 at 09:32 AM



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Janet Locke.*



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January 22, 2024 at 12:17 AM



“ *Josh, LeAnna, Lauren and Paden Gilbert planted a <a href="/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518">Memorial Tree</a> in honor of Janet Locke.*

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**Josh, LeAnna, Lauren and Paden Gilbert** - January 22, 2024 at 12:17 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Janet Locke.*



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January 21, 2024 at 03:33 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Janet Locke.*



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January 20, 2024 at 01:02 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Janet Locke.*



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January 19, 2024 at 08:57 PM



“ *Where do I begin. We grew up as friends in the same neighborhood. In our teen years, we went together to the stock car races at the old Bolivar speedway. Our memories of the past years have centered around being in the same BHS graduating class of 1967. She was a pillar of the class and has always been a friend to all as someone you could depend on. Janet will be missed but not forgotten by her friends and classmates. There are many fond memories of years as playmates, friends and classmates. Janet, may the Lord bless you and keep you - AMEN*  
*Michael D Moore*

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**Michael Moore** - January 19, 2024 at 08:33 PM



“ *I went to high school with Janet and I have known Janet for 60 years. Janet was one of those rare individuals that truly lived her life by the Golden Rule. Janet was always kind, always caring and always reaching out to help others. Janet and I became good friends and in 1967, our senior year at BHS, Janet was voted Future Homemakers of America Queen and she selected me to be her King. I was forever grateful and thankful that Janet had selected me for that honor and every time I met with Janet over the years, I would always thank her and give her a hug. They just don't make nicer people than Janet and I will always remember her and miss her. The world is a better place because Janet was here.*

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**Michael Douglas Brewer** - January 19, 2024 at 04:38 PM

SF

“ To Jim and your precious family, I am praying for you to feel Jesus' comfort right now, right where you are. Janet was a rock for her family and for all those of us who was fortunate enough to know and love her. Our Class of '67 has lost a beloved member, an important thread in the fabric of our childhood, and an active helper/friend in our ongoing lives. Janet was always there to support us in whatever we needed. Personally, I will never forget how she came to my aid last August when I needed advice in planning my Mom's Celebration of Life in Bolivar. She not only helped me plan, but she supplied so many of my needs as I arrived from Florida with my family. Janet was as close to a saint as they come, in my opinion. She is sorely missed.

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**Sherryl Burchett Florko** - January 19, 2024 at 02:35 PM