

Carol Bonarski

January 24, 1942 - October 19, 2011



Carol's Life Story



A woman who was truly beautiful on the inside and out, Carol Bonarski was a gift in the lives of so many around her. She lived her life to serve her family and although she viewed her role as a mother to be her highest calling, she just may have argued that becoming a grandmother was the very best part. Carol was a resilient woman with a quiet strength who took what life gave her and created a brilliant symphony that is to be admired. There was nothing she loved more than the peace and solitude she found being around any body of water, yet the bustle of her beloved family on Christmas morning was her greatest gift. Carol leaves behind a timeless legacy that is rich in perseverance, generosity, and compassion that will live on in the lives of those who follow in her footsteps.

During the early forties the eyes of our nation were focused on the news coming from overseas while countless servicemen and women were deeply entrenched in the perils of WWII. Families waited for the safe return of their loved ones while dealing with rationing on common goods such as coffee, paper, and gas back home. Just as a new year dawned in 1942, a young family from Mattawan, Michigan, was eagerly awaiting the birth of their new baby. Their wait was over on January 24th with the birth of the baby girl they named Carol Ann. She was the fourth child born to Harold and Jeanette (Tuin) Brininger, joining her older siblings, Harold, Wilma, and Richard. With the birth of Carol's younger brother, Jack, their family was complete. She was raised in a farm house in Mattawan where her parents worked as general farmers and owned Wolverine Coach.

Life was forever changed for Carol when she became the mother of three wonderful girls who were the light of her life: Gale, Rochelle, and Terri. With a desire to establish a better life for herself and her girls, Carol earned her GED and started over. She wanted what she felt was a good job, and was blessed to secure employment at Upjohn where she worked in quality control and building inspection in Building B on Portage Road. Carol enjoyed her work there for over 20 years.

As a mother Carol was second to none, and her greatest desire was to make sure that her girls knew that they were always first and foremost in her life. She was continually supportive and understanding of them, and she was also an active part of their lives.





Carol was thrilled when life turned in a new direction for her during the late eighties. She met a man named Bob Bonarski with whom she found companionship and friendship. They were on opposite ends of the spectrum, but they complimented one another beautifully. Carol and Bob were married on February 14, 1991. They lived in Paw Paw where they remained until Carol drew her last breath. Bob preferred being at home. He loved the polka band and could often be found playing bingo. Carol was always on the go looking for new adventures and visiting with her family and friends.



When grandchildren joined her family, Carol was thrilled and although she was always active, keeping up with these young ones shifted her into an even higher gear. Each one of her five grandchildren was extremely special to her, and she had a close relationship with each one. Carol made time to go on special lunch dates with them, and she sometimes took them to the lake or the mall. There was nothing that was

more special to her grandchildren than the little packages she surprised them with from time to time. Carol was an integral part of teaching her grandchildren life lessons not through the words she used, but through what she taught by the way she lived her life. Some of the lessons that made the greatest impact were the unconditional compassion and understanding she freely gave to those around her. Traditions were important to Carol as well, and perhaps the most memorable traditions were those the family shared on Christmas morning. The whole family came to Carol's house, usually while they were still in their pajamas, and they stayed all day long.



Although there was nothing more important to Carol than her family, she also enjoyed so many other things. She loved the water and was always looking for every opportunity to stop by a body of water somewhere to find her special peace. Her favorite lake spot was at Maple

Lake in Paw Paw where she would enjoy a senior cup of coffee. A special Mother's Day tradition was shopping with her girls in Chicago where she loved spending time with those she treasured. Carol also enjoyed traveling up the shoreline, usually twice a year, and going on lighthouse tours. When she was relaxing at home, Carol loved crime dramas, especially CSI and NCIS. Carol had a passion for flowers and gardening. Where ever she lived, she always made the most of the space and had a beautiful array of flowers. And being a passionate gardener, many of the HGTV shows suited her interest.





When Carol was diagnosed with terminal colon cancer two years ago she became even more determined to live life to the fullest. She saw to it that every detail was thoroughly covered during her sunset years in order to ensure that everything was in order for her family after she was gone as their well being continued to be

her main focus. The last four weeks of Carol's life were spent with hospice care in addition to the loving care her daughters provided.

Known as someone who was both feisty and tender, Carol Bonarski was truly a remarkable woman. She always looked her best and usually had a cute little jacket or sweatshirt with a purse to match, yet she was a natural beauty as well. Carol will be missed for her wittiness, her fun-loving personality, and her adventurous spirit, yet it will be her unending love for others that will be missed most. The memories she leaves behind will remain forever near and dear to the hearts of many.

Carol Ann Bonarski died on October 19, 2011. Carol's family includes her husband, Bob Bonarski; 3 daughters: Gale Heacock (Jim Prihoda); Rochelle (Mike) Birmann and

Terri (Mark) Ross; 5 grandchildren:

Joshua, Justin, Taylor, Nick and Chad; 3 siblings: Harold (Mary) Brininger; Wilma (Louis) Klok and Jack (Kaye) Brininger and many nieces and nephews. Carol was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Richard Brininger. Services will be held Tuesday 11:00 a.m. at the Life Story Funeral Home, Betzler; 6080, 375-2900 with visitation beginning at 10:00 a.m. Burial will follow at Maple Grove Cemetery, Mattawan. Please visit Carol's personal web page at www.lifestorynet.com where you can archive a memory or photo or sign her memory book before coming to the funeral home. Memorial donations may be directed to St. Andrew Community Church.



Life Story
FUNERAL HOMES[®]
Betzler

Visit LifeStoryNet.com to connect with your friends and family, share stories, and sign the guestbook. Life Story Funeral Homes[®] are the exclusive providers of the Life Story Experience[™].

Finally, there is a funeral home worth asking for.

