



## Sandra "Sandi" J. Johnson

October 6, 1941 - May 11, 2025

Sandra "Sandi" Jean Johnson, a beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and friend, passed away peacefully at her home on May 11, 2025, surrounded by her loving family. She was 83 years old.

Born on October 6, 1941, in Petersburg, Illinois, Sandi was the daughter of Frederick Skaggs and Anita Lucille (née Powell) Weaver. She graduated from Harris High School in Petersburg and went on to serve the State of Illinois as an Accountant, retiring in 2014. She was also a proud member of the VFW Women's Auxiliary.

Sandi had a deep love for nature and animals. She enjoyed butterfly watching, feeding the birds, and gardening. Her passion extended to all creatures—furry, feathered, and even the occasional raccoon visitor. She never met a furry baby she didn't adore. In quieter moments, she found joy in watching Jeopardy, Wheel of Fortune, and reruns of Murder, She Wrote. She loved the music of Bob Dylan and, without a doubt, is now dancing in Heaven with family.

Sandi's legacy lives on through her daughters, Peggy (Carl) Childress and Cynthia McAllister; her grandchildren, Heather (Andrew) Best, Rachael (Ryan Kiekintveld) Gilmore, and Miranda McAllister; and her great-grandchildren, Esteban (Steven) Hernandez, Devon McAllister, Dontreus Best, Trevor

Kiekintveld, McKenzie Best, Sydney Best, Hunter Kiekintveld, Steven Hernandez-Rangel, and Micah Kiekintveld. She is also survived by her siblings, Mildred Hinds and John (Jeannie) Weaver; and a brother-in-law Johnny Wayne Thomas.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her children, Robert Allen McAllister and Connie Sue McAllister; grandchildren, Jamie Gilmore and Caitlin McAllister; great-grandchildren, Harley Kiekintveld and Xzavier McAllister; and her siblings, Henry Skaggs, Ruth Duncheon, Norma Justice, Will Skaggs, Bill Skaggs, Tommy Skaggs, and Judy Thomas.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, May 22, 2025, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg, Illinois. A funeral service will follow on Friday, May 23, 2025, at 3:00 p.m., also at the funeral home. Cremation will follow.

Memorial donations may be made to the Humane World for Animals (Humane Society of the U.S.) or the American Cancer Society.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to Shelly Kleiber (Enhabit Hospice Nurse), Linda Gessaman (Enhabit Hospice Chaplain), Brianna Richardson (Home Health), and Susan Skaggs (Home Health) for their compassionate care and support during Sandi's final days.

Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg is assisting the family with arrangements. To share memories or condolences, please visit Sandi's online obituary at [hurleyfh.com](http://hurleyfh.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Rose Hill Cemetery

IL-123  
Petersburg, IL 62675  
(217) 632-3022

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAY 22.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Petersburg  
122 West Douglas Avenue  
Petersburg, IL 62675  
(217) 632-2500  
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

## Funeral Service

**MAY 23.** 3:00 PM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Petersburg  
122 West Douglas Avenue  
Petersburg, IL 62675  
(217) 632-2500  
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

# Tribute Wall

“ Today, I find myself mourning. I’m mourning the loss of celebrating this day with my grandmother, even though she is still here. It’s just her shell now. Watching her fade a little more each day is beyond heartbreaking. I can’t put it into words.

*I feel blessed that last year on Mother’s Day, our family could come together to honor Grandma. I’m not sure what she’s holding on for this Mother’s Day, but I know she’s holding on for something. I know her well enough to believe she won’t let today be the day she goes. Even when I was sure, the past few nights, that she wouldn’t see another morning, she keeps fighting. She’s always been afraid of dying. I know she didn’t want to die. So, I remind her often that she doesn’t have to be scared. I make sure to tell her how much I love her and how grateful I am for everything she’s done for me.*

*As far back as I can remember, Grandma was always there. When I was a baby, she wiped away my tears. As I grew, she encouraged me to be strong and shaped so much of who I am today. Over the years, I learned to push my emotions down—a coping mechanism, I suppose. I trained myself to cry only when I was alone, at night when my head hit the pillow. It was Grandma who broke through that wall. Even when I wouldn’t answer anyone’s calls, she left me a voicemail one day that made me realize I needed to call her back. She was so worried. We talked for a long time, and though she couldn’t be right next to me, her words lifted me in a way she might never truly know. Not long after, I started receiving daily devotional and other inspirational books from Amazon. I didn’t even know who sent them until I found out they were from her. Grandma—always thinking of me, always so selfless.*

*Grandma has always been a fighter. Even when life dealt her challenges, like losing her sight, she remained fiercely independent. She didn’t let being legally blind stop her from living life on her terms. Whether it caring for the animals and yes, even the Racoons or listening to Bob Dylan’s music, she never lost her spirit. She was strong, stubborn, and determined—qualities I admired so much. I*

*still smile thinking about her humming along to Dylan's songs, completely in her element.*

*Just a couple of weeks ago, after I got the call to come back from Michigan because Grandma had taken a turn for the worse, I rushed to be by her side. But after I arrived, something changed—Grandma made a remarkable turnaround. She became conscious again, eating a little, drinking a little, and even talking. Shelly, the hospice nurse, was stunned by the improvement, reducing her visits from daily to twice a week. One night, Grandma was so hungry that my mom couldn't get the broth into her mouth fast enough—she kept saying, "More." Another night, I mashed baked beans and potato salad, and she ate it all, even asking for Coke and coffee. In that moment, I knew—she wasn't ready to let go.*

*These past few days and nights, I've been grieving. I always thought grieving began at the moment of loss, but I know now that it's not true. A few nights ago, she became unresponsive, stopped eating entirely, and my mom and I could feel in our hearts that it wouldn't be much longer. We stayed by her side until we couldn't keep our eyes open any longer.*

*I'm so grateful that my mom is here with me. I couldn't do this without her. We're holding each other up, sharing strength through this difficult time.*

*The past few days, I've cried more tears than I have in years. I guess I've been holding everything in for so long, trying to be the strong one. This morning, it hit me: I'm already grieving.*

*Well, grandma passed tonight. She took her last breath at 10:56 p.m. She tried so hard. As she took her last breath, one single tear fell from her right eye, down her cheek! Now I know why - our Goodbye was coming. So thankful that my mother and I were by her side, holding her hands as she took her last breath. As my friend used to say, goodbye for now, Grandma, but never forever. Until we meet again.*

*So, today, and every day, tell your mother or grandmother how much you love and appreciate them. Tomorrow is not promised. Love to you all.*

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**Rachael (Sandi's Granddaughter)** - May 26, 2025 at 06:53 PM

PC

“*Mom. There are no words to really express the depth of sadness or loss that I feel. Losing you has left me numb. You have been my hero and my Mother and Father my whole life. I love you and I honor you today and all days because you deserve that and so much more. I'll always be grateful that I got my love of nature from you and my love for animals from you. I know that my work ethic came from you as did my need for an honest and good life. I've grown to respect you more and more as I've learned who and what made you uniquely you. A wonderful, beautiful, smart, funny, smart-sassy Mother & friend.*

*It's been an honor and a privilege to have been able to be here with you, to care for you, to help you and Rachael. I have loved every minute that I've gotten to spend with you and the fur babies and I am so grateful to God for giving us this time.*

*I will love you forever Mom, until I die. I will honor and cherish your memory every day that I draw a breath... and I will never ever stop missing you. I'll see you on the other side Mom. Till then... Love you, bye.*

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**Peggy Childress** - May 21, 2025 at 03:13 AM

LG

*It was an honor meeting Sandi and watching the family dynamics in her home. No one left her out of anything. Life happened all around Sandi. Her hospital bed was the command center in the living room. And, Sandi heard everything that was going on and she chimed in on conversations that she felt needed her input. Sandi fiercely loved her family and beloved pets inside and outside the house. No one left behind. She will greatly be missed on planet earth as she steps into her new role in heaven.*

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**Linda Gessaman** - May 22, 2025 at 10:47 PM

LH

“ *Larry and Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in memory of Sandra "Sandi" Johnson*



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**Larry and Mary Hundt** - May 20, 2025 at 08:58 AM



*Thank you, our family appreciates your memorial gift in honor of Sandi*



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**Rachael Gilmore** - April 30 at 08:24 PM

WH

“ *With Love Rachael, Ryan, and Hunter purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Sandra "Sandi" J. Johnson.*



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**With Love Rachael, Ryan, and Hunter** - May 19, 2025 at 01:02 PM

RG

“ *Grandma, there are not any words to describe the void. I feel inside. I miss you so much. You are the matriarch of our family, so strong, beautiful, and independent. You played such an important role in my life and who I am today. Going on without you it's not going to be easy. You are my best friend, a major part of my world. I miss you.*

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**Rachael Gilmore** - May 19, 2025 at 12:49 PM