



## Jo-Ann Babel

October 18, 1938 - July 23, 2021

Jo-Ann Babel, 82 of Bluffton, passed away on Friday evening, July 23, 2021, at Parkview Regional Medical Center in Fort Wayne.

Jo-Ann was born on October 18, 1938 in Steubenville, Ohio to Silas C. "Charles" & Cassie H. "Hazel" (Guy) Stilwell. She graduated from Jefferson Union High School in Richmond, Ohio in 1955 and from Jefferson Tech. College in 1983, where she earned her degree as an LPN. Jo-Ann owned and operated Red & Jo's Bar with her husband, John R. "Red" Walker, Sr. for 6 years. She worked as an LPN at a hospital in Arkansas and retired from Martha Manor Nursing Home in Steubenville. After she retired, she moved to Bluffton in 2005, and was an active member of the Epworth United Methodist Church in Bluffton, where Jo-Ann served as the financial secretary and was a member of United Methodist Women.

Survivors include two sons; John R. (Brenda) Walker, Jr. of Carmel and James R. (Kristy) Walker of Bluffton and two stepsons; Henry D. (Karen) Babel of Tucson, AZ. And Douglas L. (Susan) Babel of Beebe, AR, daughter in law; Dru (Hank) Fleishour of Steubenville, OH. She is also survived by her grandchildren; Kimberly S. (Christopher) Leirer, Erin M. Walker, Logan J. Walker and Reese R. Walker and step-grandchildren; Derek Noble, Alyssa Noble, Karston Boone, Tina Babel, Hank Babel and great-granddaughters, Kiley Babel and Caroline Leirer.

Jo-Ann is preceded in death by her parents, her husbands; John R. Walker Sr, Henry G. Babel, Jr. and a brother, Raymond G. Stilwell.

A funeral service will be held at 1 P.M. on Saturday (July 31, 2021) at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton with Tony Garton officiating. Burial will take place at Center Chapel Cemetery in Steubenville, Ohio at a later date to be determined by family.

Visitation will be from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. on Saturday, prior to the service.

Memorials may be made in Jo-Ann's memory to the Ossian Health & Rehab. Transportation Fund.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Center Chapel Cemetery

Steubenville, IN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 31. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
(260) 824-3850  
info@thomarich.com

## Funeral Service

JUL 31. 1:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
<http://www.thomarich.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Jo-Ann Babel*



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**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home** - July 31, 2021 at 11:39 AM



“ *Jo-Ann Babel*

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September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jo-Ann Babel.*



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July 30, 2021 at 10:08 AM



“ 83 files added to the album Life Tributes



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - July 29, 2021 at 12:04 PM



“ Jeff & Kathy Proya Jo Ann was quite simply a delightful person to know and anyone who knew her loved her. It was a privilege to serve as her pastor here at Bell Chapel U.M.C where she kept all of us laughing. She took joy in making me blush, and has been greatly missed since her move to Indiana. She was a true treasure!

Rev Jeff Proya - July 28, 2021 at 01:20 PM



Thank you for sharing! She really enjoyed her time at Bell Chapel U.M.C.

Jim Walker - July 28, 2021 at 05:42 PM



This wonderful lady was one of a kind! I'll miss her terribly but think of all the fun stories and humor she brought to every situation! She loved everybody and we loved her right back. Rest dear friend. Ellen Morrell

Ellen Morrell - July 29, 2021 at 04:16 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Jo-Ann Babel.*



July 27, 2021 at 09:02 PM



“ *One of the sweetest women in the world with the most beautiful soul. You are so loved JoAnn and will be missed. ❤️ Our thoughts and prayers for her entire family.*



**Keely Sickles** - July 27, 2021 at 05:15 PM



*Thank you, Keely! She is having a time with your mom now!*

**Jim Walker** - July 28, 2021 at 05:44 PM



*Yes, she is!! I'm sure they are playing uchre and having the most wonderful party in heaven! ❤️*

**Keely Sickles** - July 30, 2021 at 12:17 PM



“ *Words are not enough to say how much Joanne meant to me. Lifelong friends and someone I loved deeply. Good memories will always be with me of our times together. She will be missed! Praying for you all.  
Joe and Patty Vucjak*

**Joseph Vucjak** - July 27, 2021 at 11:23 AM



*Thanks Joe and Patty!*

**Jim Walker** - July 27, 2021 at 03:25 PM



*Joe, you know she held a very special place in her heart for you.*

**Jim Walker** - July 27, 2021 at 06:15 PM



“ *What a beautiful lady and competitive Card player - she will be missed.*



**Trudy** - July 26, 2021 at 03:32 PM



*Thank you*

**Jim Walker** - July 27, 2021 at 07:40 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Jo-Ann Babel.*



July 26, 2021 at 01:21 PM

RM

“ So sorry for your loss. I loved this lady. Loved talking to her everyday. I was a cook at Signature. She was a special lady. She gave me a plant the day she left Signature. I will always take care of it and cherish it.



Robin Major - July 26, 2021 at 11:47 AM



Thank you so much

Jim Walker - July 27, 2021 at 07:38 AM

LJ

“ I am so sorry to hear about jo momma. I had some of the best laughs from her. She will be missed..



Lisa Jack - July 26, 2021 at 11:01 AM



Thank you Lisa

Jim Walker - July 27, 2021 at 07:39 AM

SD

“ Sally Dillon sent a virtual gift in memory of Jo-Ann Babel



Sally Dillon - July 26, 2021 at 10:41 AM



*Thank you*

**Jim Walker** - July 27, 2021 at 07:39 AM



“ *Lisa Dillon lit a candle in memory of Jo-Ann Babel*



**Lisa Dillon** - July 26, 2021 at 10:40 AM



*Thank you*

**Jim Walker** - July 27, 2021 at 07:40 AM