



## Carolyn L. Garvaglia

September 14, 1931 - January 15, 2020

Carolyn “Cary” L. Garvaglia, 88, of Niagara, passed away on January 15, 2020, at Maryhill Manor in Niagara.

Cary was born on Sept. 14, 1931, in Clintonville, WI, daughter of the late Nels and Nina (Shingler) Hanson. She grew up and attended school in Clintonville, WI. After graduating, Cary continued her education and received her teaching certificate from Oshkosh State Teachers College. She began her teaching career in one room schoolhouses in Shawano and Marion, while taking care of her dad.

Cary was introduced to Raymond “Jabbo” by her coworker, who was also Raymond’s sister, Lois Garvaglia Sielaff. At Lois’s urging, they met in August when Jabbo was home on leave from the Army. When Cary walked into the living room of the family’s home, the first and only thing she saw was him. They were married on August 21, 1954. Together they moved to Niagara and raised their five children.

Never one to sit still, Cary continued her education at Northern Michigan University, earning her Bachelor Degree in 1972 and a Master’s Degree in 1977. While researching her Master’s thesis, Cary became keenly interested in the History of Niagara. Her thesis on the history of Niagara sparked the writing of many articles and 2 published books which are housed in the State

Historical Society in Madison and are available to the public. Cary was assisting the Niagara Historical Society interviewing additional members of the community for their stories when she had her stroke. Two of the interviews were taped and appear as YouTube videos called "Conversations with Cary".

She taught in the Niagara school system in the grade school for many years. She was the school's tooth fairy. Anyone, from any grade, who had a loose tooth, would come to her to have it pulled. She would put the tooth in an envelope with a note to bring home and reward the child for their bravery with a lemon drop. She taught in Niagara until she retired at age 62, but continued to substitute in the school district until the age of 80.

Cary was an active member of St. Anthony's Church in Niagara and served as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister and with St. Anthony Council of Catholic Women. Ray and Cary loved to garden. They took great joy in sharing the garden's bounty with many people around the community. She and Ray also operated a Christmas tree farm at their home and enjoyed offering sleigh rides and sharing the Christmas spirit with everyone who came. The couple also traveled extensively both in the United States and abroad. Cary was also a talented seamstress. She was the pitcher for Niagara's women's softball team.

In addition to her parents, Cary was preceded in death by her husband Raymond in 2017; her son, Jeffrey Garvaglia; her granddaughter, Kymberly Garvaglia; three brothers, Bud, Bob and Charlie Hanson; and her sister, Laurie Nass.

Cary is survived by her children, Jacalyn (Jeff) Courney of Niagara, Todd (Linda Severson) Garvaglia of Niagara, Craig (Maureen) Garvaglia of Niagara and Christine Bratta of Round Lake, IL.; eleven grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; and many precious nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, Jan. 18th from 9:00 am-11:00 am at St. Anthony's Church in Niagara. Funeral services will follow on Saturday at 11:00 am. Fr. Michael Lightner will offer the Mass of Christian Burial. Burial will be in the Niagara Cemetery in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in her memory to The Niagara Educational Scholarship fund or The Niagara Historical Society.

Condolences to the family of Carolyn Garvaglia may be expressed online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com)

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Niagara Cemetery

Washington St.  
Niagara, WI 54151

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 18. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Anthony Catholic Church  
1432 River St.  
Niagara, WI 54151

## Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 18. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Anthony Catholic Church  
1432 River St.  
Niagara, WI 54151

# Tribute Wall

MK

“ Carolyn and I graduated from Clintonville High School in the same year, 1949. I remember her dad and Carolyn were going berry-picking one day and Carolyn ask me to go with them. Her dad told her he did not want a whiny kid coming along. I went with them and I stepped in a hole and sprained my ankle but never told them about that. Rest in Pease Carolyn, you were always a good friend.

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**MARCELLA KNAPP** - February 20, 2023 at 10:53 AM



“ I think I can speak for most of my friends from Niagara; Mrs. Garvaglia was one of the best teachers We ever had. We all have happy memories: her kindness, how she made us feel smart, important, and talented... she was like a female Mr. Rogers. The world lost a great person. We will always remember lemon heads from; and the caring voice of Mrs. Garvaglia. Our Sympathetic thoughts and prayers are with her family.

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**HiHof Mangan** - January 18, 2020 at 07:37 PM

OW

“ Jackie and Garvaglia siblings,  
My sincere sympathy and prayers for you in  
the loss of your dear mother.  
it was always a joy to visit with your Mom no  
matter where we happened to meet. Her  
smile and friendship was so enduring. I met her first at Oak Crest  
golf course and later found we had mutual close friends in Carol  
Winters Sparapani who Carrie was attendant at Carol and Erv's  
wedding. Was saddened to just recently learn Carrie was in memory  
care unit at local Nursing Home. Rest in the knowledge she is now  
perfect in her heavenly home along with your dad.  
Keeping you in prayer knowing it's the hardest for loved ones at a  
time of earthly loss, of a mother especially. Keep the faith that I'm  
sure she passed on to each of you. God's comforting love be with  
you all..



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Orice Walters - January 17, 2020 at 05:53 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for  
the family of Carolyn L. Garvaglia.



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January 17, 2020 at 01:25 PM