



Jo Ann Frank

February 23, 1938 - July 3, 2025

Jo Ann Frank, 87, of Champaign, passed away on Thursday, July 3, 2025, at her home. She was born on February 23, 1938, in Paxton, the daughter of Orvel and Juanita (Plackett) Van Laningham. Jo Ann married her high school sweetheart, Gerald Frederick Frank, on November 10, 1956, in Paxton. He preceded her in death on May 14, 2015.

She is survived by her children, Cynthia A. Frank, Teresa J. (Laurie “Rody”) Rodencal, and Matthew G. Frank (Beth Davis); one grandchild, Caleb E. Rodencal; one sister, Patricia (Daniel) Hatter; and many nieces and nephews.

Along with her husband, Gerald, she was preceded in death by her parents, and a brother and sister-in-law, James and Connie Van Laningham.

Jo Ann had a deep passion for creativity and beauty, which she expressed through designing, stitching, and quilting. Her artistic talent shone in every detail—whether through her exquisite embroidery, needlepoint, or the quilts she lovingly designed and made by hand. She found joy in gardening and took great pride in keeping her home thoughtfully decorated, creating a warm and welcoming space for her family. In her earlier years, Jo Ann loved hosting dinner parties and was known for her exceptional cooking and meticulous attention to detail. Above all, she was devoted to her family—always generous, encouraging, and supportive. Her greatest joy was making a

beautiful life and home for those she loved most.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, July 12, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m., at Cox-Knapp Funeral Home in Paxton. A funeral service will follow the visitation on Saturday, July 12, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., also at the funeral home. A burial will follow at Glen Cemetery in Paxton.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society or the American Heart Association.

Cemetery Details

Glen Cemetery

602 E. Summer St.
Paxton, IL 60957

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 12. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Cox-Knapp Funeral Home
142 W. Patton St.
Paxton, IL 60957
(217) 379-2353
coxknappfh@gmail.com
<http://coxknapp.com>

Funeral Service

JUL 12. 10:30 AM (CT)

Cox-Knapp Funeral Home
142 W. Patton St.
Paxton, IL 60957
(217) 379-2353
coxknappfh@gmail.com
<http://coxknapp.com>

Tribute Wall

RB

“ 1 file added to the album Joann Frank



Robert Butz - July 17, 2025 at 10:22 AM

RB

“ Both Joann & Jerry Frank were lifelong friends of mine. We first met in the late 1970's in Charlottesville Va where both Jerry & I, Bob Butz worked for General Electric. My former wife and I got involved with the Cville Welcome Wagon and met on many occasions at their home there along with 5-10 other couples who were in GE and other organizations. We thoroughly had a great time whenever we would get together. After Jerry & Joann moved to Butler, Pa we visited them for weekends to have a relaxing movie watching and catchup times together. I visited them myself when in the early 1990's my wife decided to end our marriage. Those visits were some of the best support for the separation event that let me relax with their friendship. Then, they then moved on to Monticello Ill. By that time my new partner Belle and I visited there. They made their final move to Champaign Ill. Several visits to play golf with Jerry and visit for a weekend meant the world to me. As most of us know, there are those that we count on one hand that are lifetime friends. Jo and Jerry were one of those couples and I am so happy I got to be with them many years. After Jerry passed away in 2015 I talked with Joann once every other month when we would talk for at least an hour about many different subjects, not the least of which was politics. Our views were very much in synch. I will miss and cherish those wonderful talks for the rest of my life as I think of both Jerry and Joann on a regular basis. I am also grateful to know their daughters Cindy & Terry as well as their son Mathew. I have been blessed to have them in my life.

With Love

Bob Butz (and Belle Newheart) July 17, 2025

Robert Butz - July 17, 2025 at 10:11 AM

SF

“ Steve Racki Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Jo Ann Frank.



Steve Racki Family - July 10, 2025 at 05:50 PM

SF

“ Steve Racki Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jo Ann Frank.

Steve Racki Family - July 10, 2025 at 05:50 PM