



Phyllis D. Bachan

February 28, 1925 - October 7, 2015

Phyllis D. Bachan, 90 year old resident of Little Falls, passed away October 7, 2015, at Diamond Willow Assisted Living in Little Falls. A memorial gathering will take place at Shelley Funeral Chapel on Wednesday, October 14 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, with a memorial service at 6:00 pm. A private family inurnment will take place October 15 at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Little Falls.

Phyllis Dorothy Bachan was born on February 28, 1925 to Claude and Charlotte (Siebe) Salee in Evansville, Indiana. Claude moved his family often and Phyllis was able to experience farm, small town and city living as she grew up in Southern Indiana. She graduated with honors from Yankeetown High School in 1943. After graduation, as many young women did during WWII, Phyllis went to work at an airplane factory to help support the war effort and her family. As a young, single woman, she enjoyed driving her convertible with the top down, riding her motorcycle, dancing at nightclubs, doting on her younger brothers, and being the fun aunt of her nieces and nephews. During a trip to Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky, to visit her brother Richard, she met Master Sergeant Joseph Bachan. After dating a few months, Phyllis married Joe on January 30, 1953 in Shawneetown, Illinois and became a career military wife – enduring frequent transfers and family separations. Her five children were born on US Army bases at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico and Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. When Joe retired from the military, the family settled in Little Falls.

Phyllis was an accomplished bowler, winning many trophies and awards in mixed doubles and women's bowling leagues. She loved to swim in oceans, lakes, and pools and became a regular morning lap swimmer at St. Francis Health & Rec Center. Phyllis had an interest in family history and was proud of her Huguenot heritage. As a volunteer for the Morrison County Historical Society, she indexed oral histories and newspaper obituaries. Phyllis was a member of the Variety Garden Club and participated in its many community projects. She mentored children as a Cub Scout den mother, Campfire Girl leader and Junior Bowling coach. Phyllis loved the freedom of driving and traveling. Her favorite destinations were Indiana to visit family, road trips near and far with her sisters, nieces and grandchildren, and casino runs with friends. Phyllis also enjoyed caring for her grandchildren and attending their sporting events and school activities, gatherings with her "Breakfast Club" neighborhood friends, watching sports and old movies on TV, feeding birds and birdwatching, reading, crossword puzzles, trivia games, and many types of handicrafts. As Phyllis said recently, "I've had a good life."

Phyllis is survived by her children, Dorothy Bachan (Gerald Fiedler) of Little Falls, Joseph (Bonnette) Bachan II of Little Falls, Ronald (Cynthia) Bachan of Little Falls, Jean (Peter) Balaski of Royalton, Jane Bachan-Anderson of Evansville, IN; grandchildren, Angela Cagle (Dean Jensen), Jennifer (Isaak) Anderson, Jesse (Jana) Bachan, Jasmyne (John) Glikas, JaBeaua (Hayley) Bachan, Lacey (Jonathan) Smieja, Canyon Anderson, Dallas Anderson; great-grandchildren, Gabriel Hanson, Dane Cagle, Sydney Bachan, Malaki Bachan, Olivia Anderson, Mayzie Smieja, Saraya Bue; step-great-grandchildren, Morgan Buchholz, Riley Buchholz; brother, Donald (Marsha) Salee of Evansville, IN; honorary daughter, Susan (Kenneth) Askins of Newburgh, IN; many nieces and nephews.

Phyllis was preceded in death by her parents, Claude and Charlotte (Siebe) Salee; husband, Joseph Bachan (12/07/2002); granddaughter, Janaya Erickson (04/04/1998); siblings, Hartford "Buck" (Edna) Salee, Irene (Walter) Wood, Edna (Hyman) Ricketts, Mary Helen "Tootsie" (Jacob) Nord; Nellie

(James) Wallace; and Richard (Nellie) Salee.

Cemetery Details

Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery

15550 Highway 115
Little Falls, MN

Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Phyllis D. Bachan*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - October 12, 2015 at 12:12 PM



“ *Phyllis D. Bachan*

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *Dear beloved family of Phyllis Bachan, please take comfort in knowing that the true God (Psa 83:18) is aware of your loss and will provide you with comfort & strength during this difficult time.*

Lois - November 06, 2015 at 12:45 AM

DE

“ I will say that when I think of Aunt Phyllis, I think of how much my mother thought of her younger sister, how she loved and admired her.

Mama always told me that she were the smartest person in math she had ever known.

I know that as sisters there was always some (mostly playful) "sibling banter" but my mother, Nellie, who always called her "Phyl" loved her with all her heart.

I remember one afternoon at Mama's apartment in Hoover, AL Aunt Phyllis and I went for a swim....I say Aunt Phyllis and I, but I really mean, Aunt Phyllis because the water was WAY too cold for a southern girl like me. She hopped right in and told me it was practically warm by Minnesota standards.

Aunt Phyllis will be deeply missed, warmly remembered, and forever loved.

My sympathy and prayers go out to the family during this most difficult time.

*With Love,
Debbie England*

Deborah England - October 14, 2015 at 01:25 PM

KM

“ My sympathy goes out to all of you.



Kathy Marshik - October 13, 2015 at 10:18 PM

MS

“ We will miss our talks on family, Evansville history, and life in general. So glad we got to spend months together in Evansville.

Marsha Salee - October 13, 2015 at 09:03 PM

LW

“ My memories of Aunt Phyllis were always good ones. I remember her taking us, the Wood girls out driving around. One memory that my sister Mary Ellen told me was Phyllis was driving a yellow convertible and she took us out for ice cream. Mary said there were chocolate drippings all over the back of the car. She said our grandmother Charlotte, got a good laugh about that. I also remember trips to the Zoo and Phyllis and Aunt Edna. She always made me feel good when we talked, she always told me how pretty I was, even at my advanced age, it was nice to hear.

Liz Walker - October 12, 2015 at 07:35 PM

DW

“ When I think of Aunt Phyllis, a few specific thoughts and memories come to mind. 1st, I guess I always had a soft spot because out of all the aunts, she and my dad favored each other so much. It's an old memory - but I remember dad (Don), Uncle Dick and Aunt Phyllis next to each other and thought how they could almost be triplets. My son's love for Bocce ball comes from Aunt Phyllis. During a Scales Lake family reunion she invited him to be on her team and taught him how to play (and of course - they won-and I still hear that from him). I also relate to her as the "aunt with no filter" when it comes to telling stores about her siblings...she held nothing back and shared some funny stuff! Being the youngest cousin from the Salee 8, I missed out on a lot of the family experience, but what will always remain in my heart about my aunt is how much she meant to my dad. How she stepped up and pitched in when he needed. I feel so blessed to have had the chance to spend some extra time with her during her short return to Evansville. Aunt Phyllis will be missed by all of us. It's odd, but for some reason I do feel her departure may be a stepping stone for some new or rekindled family bonds.

Donna West - October 12, 2015 at 07:33 PM

LK

“ Lynn Karasch lit a candle in memory of Phyllis D. Bachan



Lynn Karasch - October 12, 2015 at 10:25 AM

LK

“ My deepest sympathy to the all the Bachan Families. So sorry for your loss.

Lynn Karasch - October 12, 2015 at 10:22 AM

LK

“ I'll miss Phyllis a lot! I got to know Phyllis because my 2 Sisters-in laws are married to Ron & Jose'. She always came to my Nieces & Nephews Birthday Parties when they were little. I always enjoyed talking to Phyllis & getting to know her. She was a wonderful person! I'll always remember her in my thoughts & prayers. My heart goes out to all the Bachan Families. It's really hard to lose people you really LOVE!
Lynn Karasch



Lynn Karasch - October 12, 2015 at 10:12 AM

JR

“ Dear cousins, I send my deepest sympathy in the loss of your mother.
I remember once when she spent a long time talking to me about exactly what happened at her plant and in downtown Evansville when WW II ended. Her description was so good that I felt as if I were there.
My mother loved Phyllis and so did I.
You all are in my thoughts and prayers.
Love, Your cousin Janelle Wallace Ramsey

Janelle Ramsey - October 11, 2015 at 02:26 PM

DH

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family. We all had such good times and made some great memories visiting everyone up in Minnesota when the kids were younger. Phyllis was such a great person and will be deeply missed. Love you all.

Dolly, Jason, and Lesley Haluska

Dolly Haluska - October 11, 2015 at 09:22 AM

SA

“ Moon River was also the name of a driver up restaurant seated on the bank of the Ohio River in Newburgh, Indiana. A popular place for dates to hang out. Which was a great stopping place for Jo and Phyllis.

This song became a hit in 1961 sang by Andy Williams. With Jo overseas in Germany and her living near the "Moon River" restaurant this quickly became one of Phyllis favorite song

Susan Nord Askins - October 11, 2015 at 02:53 AM

JB

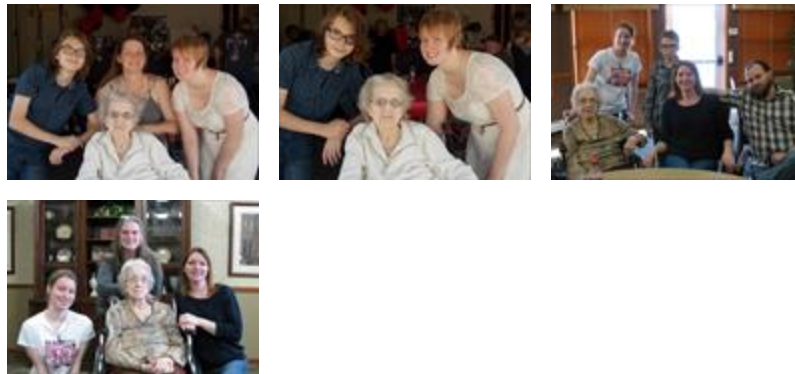
“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Jean Balaski - October 10, 2015 at 09:28 PM

AC

“ 4 files added to the album Luncheons and Parties



Angela Cagle - October 09, 2015 at 06:56 PM

LB

“ I first met Phyllis when I married one of Joe's brothers, Paul, and we took the ride to Ft Leonard Wood. There were five children and the twins were just five months old at the time. Phyllis had our admiration from day one throughout the many years ahead. She was strong, matter of fact, a devoted wife and mother, adventuresome on the road driving to Evansville from Minnesota as though it were ten miles away. As time went on and our proud patriot, Joe, continued to be stationed in different countries, she and the children lived awhile in Sunnyside of East Chicago and we were able to be neighbors. Our happy and large family (Paul and I being two of 20 brothers and sisters) loved the experience of being together and having them in our lives. Later, how fun were the many trips the family made to fishing vacations in cabins of Minnesota.

God speed to Phyllis, we have many memories. Leona and Paul

Leona & Paul Bachan - October 09, 2015 at 06:19 PM

SA

Leona, Phyllis always spoke well of you also. And she looked forward to visiting you on her stop overs to Indiana. I can remember when the twins were very young. She had a bench built to make the backseat floor board of the car level with the seat itself. She then covered it all with a mattress. She would put all 5 children in the back and just take off With nothing but a map and cash for gas. Now days we have interstate highways, GPS navigation, cell phones, AAA roadside service none of which Phyllis had. She was the greatest example of how to be an independent woman God could have ever put in my life.

Susan Nord Askins - October 09, 2015 at 08:11 PM

JH

“ *Judy (Dahmen) Herman lit a candle in memory of Phyllis D. Bachan*



Judy (Dahmen) Herman - October 09, 2015 at 06:19 PM

WP

“ *Wanda (Thweatt) Parks lit a candle in memory of Phyllis D. Bachan*



Wanda (Thweatt) Parks - October 09, 2015 at 06:18 PM

WP

*My thoughts and prayers go out to the family. I remember going to Minnesota to visit Aunt Phyllis and Uncle Jo as a child. The last time I got to see them was at a family reunion in Indiana. Always got a Christmas card every year from Aunt Phyllis. Such a very sweet lady.
Love, Wanda and Tom Parks*

Wanda (Thweatt) Parks - October 09, 2015 at 06:25 PM

“ My earliest memory of Aunt Phyllis was in 1957 when she returned from San Cristobal, Puerto Rico. With her was a girl named Ba-Beet (Dorothy Jo) who was two years younger than I and baby boy named Jose (Joseph). What interesting names these were to a four year old country girl who had never been out of the state of Indiana. Along with the strangely named children she brought photos of an exotic land that had ocean beaches and no winter. My fascination with Aunt Phyllis had began. Her visit was short. She was just passing through Southern Indiana to gather belongs she had stored at our home as in winter coats and heavy blankets not needed in Puerto Rico. The Bachan' family was then stationed in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri until 1961. Where Ron, Jean and Jane where born. Much to my great delight Aunt Phyllis came to live in Newburgh Indiana in 1961 while Uncle Jo was stationed overseas in Germany. Ba Beet quickly became my childhood favorite friend. My sister Margaret and I both loved the fascination of "twins" and loved playing with Jean and Jane.

My first realization of how much practical common sense Aunt Phyllis had was watching her bathe "the twins" in her kitchen "twin" sink.

Our families spent a lot of hours visiting together during these next few years. They loved experiencing farm life and the animals at the Nord house. We relished playing outside while enjoying the wonders of summer evenings as a child. Needless to say I was crushed to learn that the family was transferring to Camp Ripley, Minnesota when Jo returned from Germany in 1963.

Phyllis always made an effort to come to Indiana to visit every few years. Which was the only place she ever called home. My mother and her sisters were always excited to hear Freckles was coming to Indiana. I enjoyed listening to the sisters visit one another as Irene, Edna, Nellie and my mother Tootsie would discuss (argue) their childhood memories.

Just within the last few months Phyllis was telling me about how mad she was because Edna was her fathers' favorite and got away with more than the other siblings.

After my mother and Phyllis' other sisters had passed away Phyllis

would make my house her home base while visiting. She loved trivia games and even in her later years I learned never, never, never try to outsmart Phyllis in a trivia game. It was enough to say "I played a good game even if I didn't win.

I think I must have gotten the "love for the road" gene from Aunt Phyllis the very first time I met her and she spoke of how beautiful Puerto Rico was. On her visits with me we would take day trips. Generally she didn't care which direction we headed out . She just loved the going. As I set and type these memories I would have to say the greatest lesson Aunt Phyllis taught me was you don't have to be wealthy to have a rich and full life. Miss you already Aunt Phyllis, I loved you to the moon and back.

To Dorothy Jo, Jose, Ron, Jean and Jane know that you will always hold a very special place in my heart. I cherish my memories of each of you.

Love your honorary sister, Susan

Susan Nord Askins - October 09, 2015 at 04:08 PM

BC

“ Bev & Gary & Chelsey lit a candle in memory of Phyllis D. Bachan



Bev & Gary & Chelsey - October 09, 2015 at 03:53 PM

MY

“ I didn't get to spend as much time with Aunt Phyllis as I would have liked to since she lived in MN and me in IN but I always enjoyed the times I did spend with her.

Sympathy goes out to all her family. She will be missed.

Love to all,

Margaret

Margaret Young - October 09, 2015 at 08:53 AM

RB

“ Our deepest condolences to the Bachan family. Our wonderful sister-in-law will be missed but not forgotten. We love you.

Rich and Gale Bacan



Rich and Gale Bacan - October 09, 2015 at 04:37 AM

Anne Nord

“ I feel sorry for the Trivia team in heaven who decides to take on the 5 Salee girls!

Anne Nord - October 08, 2015 at 10:06 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Jennifer Anderson - October 08, 2015 at 07:43 PM



My wedding day with both of my grandmas. Phyllis Bachan, Jen Anderson & Lucille Karasch

Jennifer Anderson - October 08, 2015 at 07:45 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Jennifer Anderson - October 08, 2015 at 03:28 PM

SW

“ *Sandy {Bzdok} Wright-Olson lit a candle in memory of Phyllis D. Bachan*



Sandy {Bzdok} Wright-Olson - October 08, 2015 at 09:39 AM