

Mary Jo (Wobbema) Van Otterloo died peacefully, with her daughters by her side, on Thursday, September 3, 2026, at Friendly Horizons in Sioux Center, IA, the culmination of a graceful battle with Alzheimer's Disease.

Mary Jo was born March 9, 1943, to Bernard and Irene (Tammenga) Wobbema in Orange City, IA. She attended Orange City Christian School, Northwestern Academy, and Western Christian High School. She later went to Dordt College where she received her teaching certificate. Her teaching career led her to schools in Escondido, CA, Hills, MN, and Ireton, IA.

She met her husband, Harold Van Otterloo, on a blind date in 1969 and they were married a short time later. Harold was a widower with three young boys, Michael, Kevin, and David; and Mary Jo was a single mom to Kari. A year later, Kathy was born, completing their family.

Her love for the Lord and others was evident. Mary Jo had a way of noticing the needs of others and quietly made an impact on many lives.

In addition to raising five children, Mary Jo's love for teaching included sharing the love of Jesus with kids, having spent many years teaching catechism to middle schoolers and mentoring many into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. She had the ability to build relationships with people of any age, was a mentor to young women in MOPS, studied the Scriptures with other women, and walked alongside many others. She also served as a Care Elder at Faith Reformed Church in Rock Valley.

One of the ways she showed love to others was through her gift of hospitality. Mary Jo loved to cook and bake and shared that gift with those around her. There were always cookies in her freezer, and when an opportunity presented itself, she was quick to provide a meal to anyone who needed it.

Another one of Mary Jo's greatest gifts was her sense of humor. She readily laughed at herself, taught others to find joy and humor in all circumstances and had the ability to lighten real life mishaps through that sense of humor.

Mary Jo was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and Vascular Dementia in 2023. Although the disease took so much of the woman we knew, the core of who she was remained. She remained pleasant, always expressed gratitude to those caring for her, and continued to be interested in learning about how her kids and grandkids were doing. Her family is very grateful that she knew each of us until her final breath.

She is survived by her sons Mike (Judy, Rock Valley), Kevin (Letti, Rock Valley), Dave (Beth, Haskell, OK), daughters, Kari Case (Bryan, Lake City, IA), Kathy Godfredsen (Chris, Rock Valley), 19 grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren, with one on the way, and two great-great-grandsons.

Along with her parents and husband, Mary Jo was preceded in death by her five siblings, Preston Wobbema, Judy (Wobbema) Jongerius, Bill Wobbema, Carolyn (Wobbema) Fisher, her infant brother, Bruce Wobbema, and her daughter-in-law, Kris Kooima.

The family will be forever grateful for the love and care she received at both River View Ridge and Friendly Horizons as she lived her final years with dementia, and for the compassionate care and support provided by St. Croix Hospice during her final days.

In Loving Memory



Mary Jo Van Otterloo

March 9, 1943 ~ September 3, 2026

FUNERAL SERVICE

2:00 PM, Tuesday, September 8, 2026
Faith Reformed Church
Rock Valley, Iowa

OFFICIANT

Rev. Chris Godfredsen

WORSHIP LEADER

Nicole Kroeze

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

"The Love of God"

"Abide"

"How Great Thou Art"

PALLBEARERS

Alex Godfredsen ~ Melissa Eich

Kyler Case ~ Nikki Johnsen

Kody Case ~ Bryan Case

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Kristi Gesink ~ Joey Van Otterloo

Bobby Van Otterloo ~ Jessica Tucker ~ Kiana Vest

Samantha Vargas ~ Josie Wrede ~ Katie Van Ginkel

Matthew Van Otterloo ~ Travis Van Otterloo ~ Maddie Godfredsen

Abbie Van Otterloo ~ Ben Van Otterloo ~ Anna Godfredsen

INTERMENT

Valley View Cemetery
Rock Valley, Iowa

Mary Jo's family invites everyone to join them in the Family Life Center following the committal service at the cemetery for refreshments and fellowship.

Psalm 27

(NIV)

The Lord is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked advance against me
to devour me,
it is my enemies and my foes
who will stumble and fall.

Though an army besiege me,
my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me,
even then I will be confident.

One thing I ask from the Lord,
this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord
and to seek him in his temple.

For in the day of trouble
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent
and set me high upon a rock.

Then my head will be exalted
above the enemies who surround me;
at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make music to the Lord.

Hear my voice when I call, Lord;
be merciful to me and answer me.

My heart says of you, "Seek his face!"
Your face, Lord, I will seek.

Do not hide your face from me,
do not turn your servant away in anger;
you have been my helper.
Do not reject me or forsake me,
God my Savior.

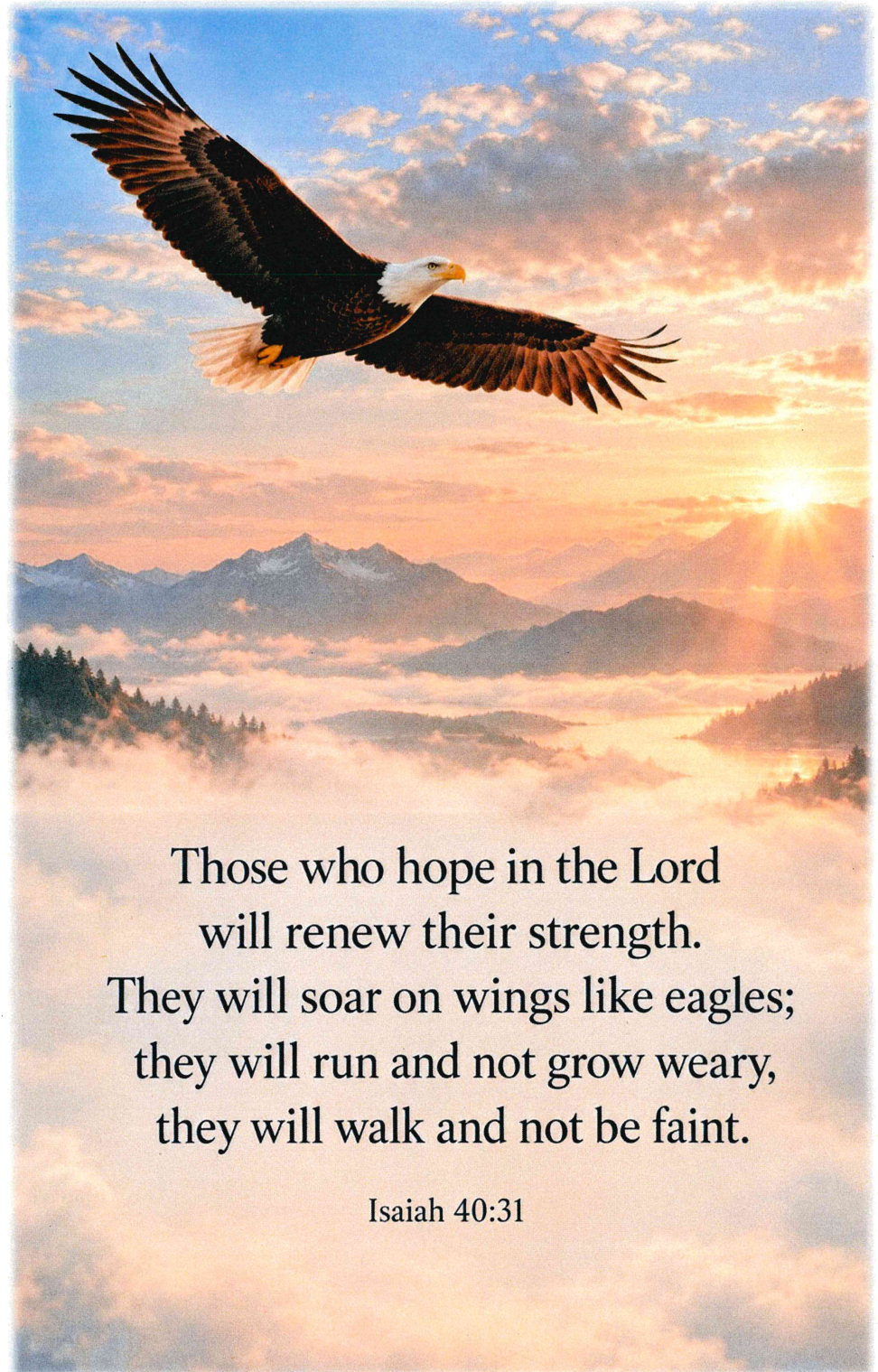
Though my father and mother forsake me,
the Lord will receive me.

Teach me your way, Lord;
lead me in a straight path
because of my oppressors.

Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes,
for false witnesses rise up against me,
spouting malicious accusations.

I remain confident of this:
I will see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the Lord.



Those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31

