



## Joanne Charlene Matthews

September 28, 1936 - May 17, 2015

Joanne Charlene Matthews, 78, died Sunday, May 17, 2015 at Community Hospital in Torrington.

Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 26, at the First Wyoming United Presbyterian Church with Reverend Vickie Kintzel and Pastor Scott Mathis officiating. Burial will follow in the Valley View Cemetery in Torrington. Cremation has taken place. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Albert "Ab" Harris Memorial Scholarship Fund at EWC, 3200 West C Street, Torrington, Wyoming 82240 or donor's choice. Arrangements are under the direction of the Colyer Funeral Home and friends may send their condolences to the family at [www.colyerfuneralhome.com](http://www.colyerfuneralhome.com).

Joanne was born September 28, 1936, in Hawk Springs, Wyoming the daughter of Albert "Ab" and Vivian (Hoover) Harris. After her birth, the family lived in Hawk Springs for four or five years and then moved to Torrington. Joanne graduated from Torrington High School in 1954 and went on to attend the University of Wyoming on an honor scholarship. In 1958, after graduating from UW, Joanne took a job at Glendo High School. Joanne then taught as an instructor of business education for the Huntley School District from 1958-61. In 1961, she took a position in the Business Department at Eastern Wyoming College and was the Dean of Women. Joanne graduated from the University of Wyoming with her Masters in 1963. The following year she went back to the Huntley School District and became the Principal at Huntley High School. In

1967, Joanne began teaching in the Goshen County Unified School District. She was the business department chairman and director of the Community Resource Training Program. In 1995 she was named Teacher of the Year for THS. Joanne taught in Torrington until she retired in 1995. After retirement, she was a substitute teacher for another five years. Joanne met Jack Matthews in high school, the two were high school sweethearts. The couple married in 1963. Joanne was always busy. The couple owned the Chicken Hut in Torrington for 27 years. The couple also managed/owned many rental properties.

Jack and Joanne enjoyed their retirement by spending time with their grandchildren and sharing in their school activities, going on cruises and tours all over the world, fishing, participating in Shrine activities, and caring for elderly relatives who needed assistance. Joanne was a member of the Wyoming Education Association, Goshen County Education Association, National Education Association, Order of Eastern Star, Job's Daughters, PEO, Kappa Delta, Phi Gamma Nu, and UW Alumni Association.

Survivors include husband Jack Matthews of Torrington; daughter Thyra (Rodney) Welsh of Omaha, Nebraska; sister Janice (Dugan) King of Gering, Nebraska; grandson Evan Welsh of Omaha, Nebraska; granddaughter Abigail Welsh of Omaha, Nebraska; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Preceding her in death were her parents and her sister Joyce Miller.

# Cemetery Details

## Valley View Cemetery

30th Avenue  
Torrington, WY 82240

# Tribute Wall

DH

“ Jack my prayers and thoughts are with you and your family. Joanne was someone special, may the memories of the time you shared together help you through the days ahead. She is resting in peace now, and has taken her place in Heaven.

Don Harris - May 27, 2015 at 09:46 PM

JS

“ Jack, Thyra and family, I am so glad to have met Joanne, she always made me feel welcome and I felt I had known her for a long time. My sympathy goes out to all of you and know that God will help you through your sorrow. Sincerely, Jeanette Sterba

Jeanette Sterba - May 27, 2015 at 10:35 AM

MV

“ We have soooo many memories as a family. All of the great BBQs she had us for with brats, homemade beans and potato salad and etc.. that filled all the boys way full! All the special drop ins every other day with a chat and good wish! Our kids were so blessed to have her as a "grandma to run to" when they wanted a treat or a good tv show! She came to every 1st communion, confirmation and baptism that they could. People thought they were catholic since they were there so much! What good she did for everyone else sitting by their bedsides and taking to appt. and cooking for many! She had a great listening ear! WE WILL TRULY MISS HER!

with all of our love,

Leland, Mary Ann, Marie, Diana, Thomas, Steven, Benjamin, Nicholas, Andrew, Paul, Kathleen and Alexis Vetter

mary ann vetter - May 27, 2015 at 10:33 AM

KW

“ Jack, Thyra and family, We reach out to you and extend our sincere sympathies at this time. May the good memories remain with you and carry you through the days ahead.



Keith and Gwen Whitney - May 26, 2015 at 02:49 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joanne Charlene Matthews.



May 26, 2015 at 11:51 AM

KD

“ Dear Janice and family, I'm very sorry to learn of Joanne's passing. She was a great lady. I know you will miss her. My prayers and thoughts are with you. With deepest sympathy, Kathy Davis



Kathy Davis - May 23, 2015 at 10:11 AM

TB

“ Dear Thyra,  
Your mom meant so much to me, and no one in my life other than my close family members, made such a difference to my career and how to be professional in the workplace. She was the best teacher and friend. Very few know that when my brother was struggling in high school, she made a personal visit to our home to meet with him to convince him to stay and graduate, and he did! Later she visited our home in Laramie when our son was born, and I was able to reconnect with her in email several years ago. I loved her dearly, I am so sorry for your loss. --Tammy

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**Tammy (Backman) Benshoof** - May 23, 2015 at 08:18 AM

LG

“ Jo & I started teaching @ THS in 1967, she was always willing to help me & my three children, Travis, Tyler & Layne.  
Our sincere condolences to Jack & Families. L. Wayne Gentry. P.S. I am out of town visiting Layne Love & Family in K.C.

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**L. Wayne Gentry** - May 22, 2015 at 05:15 PM

SH

“ Jack my prayers and thoughts are with you and your family. I always enjoyed her stories about spending time with her grandchildren and of course the stories she shared of you and her and your many trips. Shannon(Alter Ego Salon)

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**Shannon Hafner** - May 22, 2015 at 02:09 PM

GT

“ Thyra, Rodney and family...my deepest sympathies in this time of loss. Although I had met Joanne when we worked together I did not really know her I do feel i knew who she was as a person, the content of her character and a grace about her because of the daughter she raised and the type of person you are, Thyra. Your Mom will live on through you and your children and all the other lives she touched. Be at peace knowing she made a positive impact on the world around her.



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**Greg Tatham** - May 22, 2015 at 11:42 AM

MW

“ Jack, Thyra and families: My love and condolences. Joanne and I were 'almost' sisters.:>) Yes, she will be missed and you will continue to love her in your hearts and memories. Prayers and Hugs. Marion

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**Marion Harris Weickum** - May 21, 2015 at 07:50 PM

JS

“ Dear all,  
Joanne and you have been in my constant thoughts and prayers.

Joanne always took interest in me and the family and treated us as part of her family. While she has completed her journey in this life, I know she is continuing to look after us as she takes her place at home in Heaven.

God bless.

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**Jeff Sterba** - May 21, 2015 at 12:37 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joanne Charlene Matthews.*



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May 21, 2015 at 11:34 AM



“ *To Mrs. Matthews family, I am so sorry for your loss. Mrs. Matthews was one of my favorite teachers who helped me to get to the career I have today. She was also a great support to me when I was in high school. You are in my prayers.*



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**Laura (Carstens) Schlotthauer** - May 21, 2015 at 09:59 AM



“ *We send our love and the warmth of years of great memories. May peace and comfort come your way. The Baysinger family.*

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**Janet Baysinger Pike** - May 21, 2015 at 08:29 AM



“ *Oh, my! She is one lady I'll never forget. Definitely one of the best!*

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**Mary Werner** - May 21, 2015 at 07:16 AM

TH

“ Beautiful person inside and out. Mrs. Matthews taught me how to type in high school. In more recent years (the past 10-15 years), I knew Joanne on a somewhat more personal note. Jack, I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. With love, Tammy (Hatch) Herman.

Tammy Herman - May 21, 2015 at 12:29 AM



“ Mrs. Matthews was one of my favorite teachers. A classy lady through and through. She truly cared about her students and taught life lessons alongside life skills. May God bless and keep you all. Lori (Feagler) Johnson.

Lori Johnson - May 20, 2015 at 09:42 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all



Deborah Ellett - May 20, 2015 at 08:59 PM

BG

“ Bobbi Kay Giles lit a candle in memory of Joanne Charlene Matthews



Bobbi Kay Giles - May 20, 2015 at 08:54 PM

VC

“ Virginia Clark lit a candle in memory of Joanne Charlene Matthews



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Virginia clark - May 20, 2015 at 06:49 PM

VC

“ Jack...my heart goes out to you. Prayers. Loved to know you and Joanne and see you at church. God's peace to you and your family. Much love.

Virginia Clark

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Virginia clark - May 20, 2015 at 06:48 PM

MW

“ Jack, Thyra and family, my love to you and my love also to one of my 'sisters' in life. We were raised Harris but not related except through our years of being in school and our years that followed with class reunions. My prayers for your comfort through your next chapter of life. Marion Harris Weickum

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Marion Harris Weickum - May 20, 2015 at 05:01 PM

NO

“ Jack, Thyra and Joanne's family, our deepest sympathies to you at this difficult time. Joanne will be missed, but, we all have so many fond memories of her. Mom always thought highly of Joanne and considered her as her second Mother. She is resting now in Jesus loving arms. May she rest in peace.



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Nattie and Bob Otero - May 20, 2015 at 04:09 PM

MO

*Joanne had to be one of the strongest, thoughtful, intelligent, and kind persons I know. She always had time to help others. She was a wonderful mother and grandmother (Evan and Abby-we always knew what you were doing and how proud she was of both of you). Thyra you have been through this whole ordeal and was at your mother's side at all times. The bond between mother and daughter is so strong and you always showed just how strong it was with you and your mom. And to Jack -don't forget how many friends you have to be around or to just talk with. I know she was the love of your life!*

*May the Lord help all of you through this difficult time,*

*Marilyn and Gary Olson*

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**Marilyn Olson** - May 26, 2015 at 10:58 AM