



## Jo Ann Bock

December 31, 1929 - December 19, 2024

With love we mourn the death of Jo Ann Bock but also celebrate her life.

Jo Ann (Burton) Bock, who passed away December 19, was born December 31, 1929 to Charles and Lela (Rauh) Burton.

She and Howard Bock were married May 21, 1950 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Jo Ann had a lifelong love of books and writing. At Trinity Lutheran grade school, she earned her way by cleaning up after meals because her parents could not afford the cost. As a young teen she was a waitress, and at 17 she became a reporter for the Southeast Missourian where she wrote human interest features and obituaries. As was journalistic custom, she ended her stories with the symbol -30-, which signified the story had ended.

She graduated from Cape Central high school in 1947, received a Bachelor of Science in education in 1964 majoring in English and journalism at Southeast Missouri State, and a Masters in English in 1973.

Jo Ann also loved music. Her father used to play guitar and sing with her and her younger sister, Kitty, literally on his knee. Daddy Charlie died of TB in 1943.

She had a beautiful singing voice and was often a soloist in the church choir. She sang with the Cape Choraliers, Sweet Adeline Girardot Rose chorus, and the choirs at Trinity Lutheran Church and Good Shepherd Lutheran Chapel.

She was very active in many community organizations. She was a den mother with the Cub Scouts, a charter member of the Jaycee Wives, a charter member and officer of the Mental Health Council of Cape Girardeau County, was on the board of directors for Southeast Missouri Council of the Arts, organized and presided at a writing workshop for senior citizens (under joint sponsorship with the Missouri State Council of the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts), a member of the Cape Writers Guild and served on the Saxony Lutheran High School advisory board in its first six years.

After working at the Southeast Missourian, Jo Ann became a teacher and taught English, journalism and research paper writing at Cape Central High School for 26 years (1964-1990). She was also advisor to The Tiger school newspaper, the Girardot yearbook and The Central Light literary anthology.

In her retirement years, she wrote a column in The Best Years magazine (Southeast Missourian) for over 20 years. She also wrote a book, Around the Town of Cape Girardeau in Eighty Years, which was published in 2013.

Jo Ann was amazingly resilient and strong in dealing with her son Bradley's severe mental illness for over 50 years in the family home.

Jo Ann accomplished much in her 94 years. She would tell you her biggest accomplishment by far was being Mother to three sons and wife to her husband for 59 years until his passing in 2009.

She is survived by sons Burton (Deborah) of Cape Girardeau, Missouri and

Brian (Bonnie) of Sugar Land, Texas; Grandchildren Nathan (Janessa) Bock and their children Olivia, Cora and Genevieve; Amanda (Wes) Calhoun and their children Haylyn, Brenna, and Finley; Adam (fiancé Daoyen) Bock; step-grandchildren James (Jessica) Staufenbiel and their child Eris; and Megan Staufenbiel; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, stepfather Richard “Dick” Ware; husband Howard Bock; son Bradley Bock; half-brother Richard “Dick” Cissell; sister Kathryn “Kitty” Jolls; and step-brother David Ware.

No doubt there must be other moms as wonderful, but her sons and late husband would say they have not met any.

Now it’s time for that ending symbol.

-30-

Goodbye, Mother

Visitation will be 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Thursday, December 26, 2024 at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel in Cape Girardeau.

A private funeral service will be Friday, December 27, 2024 with the Rev. Barry Pfanstiel officiating.

Memorials may be given to Good Shepherd Lutheran Chapel, Saxony Lutheran High School, or St. Judes.

Burial will be at Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery in Cape Girardeau.

Ford & Sons Funeral Home - Mt. Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery

2315 Highway 61 North  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701  
(573) 334-1909  
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **26**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel  
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

# Tribute Wall

LF

“ Oh my heart hurts. Mrs. Bock was my English teacher at Cape Central High School. Instructor on the Central Light Anthology where I was assistant editor. I spent many days after school with your mom! Loved her! She was one of a kind! Inspiring young writers, like myself, and many others! I could go on and on! May her family seek peace in knowing how many lives she touched! Thanks for sharing your mom with us! Lorri Bender class of 84!

Lorri Bender Fann - January 10, 2025 at 10:25 PM

CF

“ Carleen & Mike Jolls & family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Jo Ann Bock.



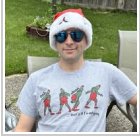
Carleen & Mike Jolls & family - December 25, 2024 at 05:52 PM

DJ

“ Dan Jolls purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Jo Ann Bock.



Dan Jolls - December 25, 2024 at 05:46 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Michael Jolls** - December 25, 2024 at 11:29 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Michael Jolls** - December 25, 2024 at 11:29 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Michael Jolls** - December 25, 2024 at 11:28 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Michael Jolls** - December 25, 2024 at 11:28 AM

RP

“ *My sincere condolences to the Bock family.*

*Burton, your Mother's obituary is a beautiful tribute to a remarkable woman.*

*I remember Mrs. Bock during my years at Trinity Lutheran School and CHS. I was part of the Girardot student staff and recall how supportive Mrs. Bock was to all of us.*

*Your Mother also made great strides in the attention to mental illness when society did not acknowledge this disease.*

*May the memories of Mrs. Bock comfort you.  
Rest in Peace, Mrs. Bock.*

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**Ruth Ellen Neihart Parker** - December 24, 2024 at 08:42 AM

JJ

“ My sweet, sweet Aunt is back with her maker. Heaven is a happier place today with her there. You get to hear "the most beautiful music". (my piano teacher of years back was pronounced clinically dead during a surgery. She told me she heard the most beautiful music ever - nothing she had ever heard before - and she knew all the classics. I asked her if she could hum a few bars and she laughed and said "no".) I know you're enjoying the most beautiful music my dear Aunt. Love, peace, and more love - Jen Jolls

Jen Jolls - December 23, 2024 at 09:39 PM

JH

“ We had a friend that died on the operating table, but was resuscitated. He did not want to come back because he said heaven was the most beautiful place he had ever been to. I imagine that Jo Ann is saying the same thing only adding the phrase, "I could write a book about this." Your family will be in our thoughts and prayers. Harold and Jeanine Hager

Jeanine and Harold Hager - December 23, 2024 at 09:27 PM

BP

As cousin of JoAnn's, I remember spending time at she n Howard's home. She was always inviting and opened her doors wide for guests. When she was able to graduate college and later gain her Masters degree she became my model! Because of Jo, I eventually became a nurse with more than 1 Masters degree! Jo was quite a writer and singer as I knew her. I was most impressed to hear her sing "The Magnificat" in the days preceding Christmas. I happened to care for one of 'the Rauh Aunt's' Best friend the night the friend died. First as a good ICU nurse, my partner n I resuscitated her. When I spoke to the friend she said don't ever do that again! I was in big garden sitting on a rail fence. Your Aunt came to welcome me. There was peace and music everywhere! That's where I was to be! She got her wish later that night. Maybe Jo this lady was the one who welcome Jo into heaven. 30

Barbara Rauh Powell - December 25, 2024 at 12:05 PM



“ *Burton and Brian,  
Your Mother was an amazing teacher and mentor for me when I worked on the Tiger newspaper in 1968-1969. She demanded excellence but was always ready to lend a helping hand when needed. May flights of angels sing her to a well-deserved rest. -30-  
Brad H.*

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**Neville Abbott** - December 23, 2024 at 08:58 PM

PH

“ *It was my honor to know and be inspired by JoAnn, as a young writer still in high school and then as a career English teacher myself, like her. She was indeed a lover of words and sought to make that love contagious in her world. A lovely friend.*

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**Pat Heckert** - December 23, 2024 at 05:00 PM

BS

“ *Blue Sky Community Services planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jo Ann Bock.*

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**Blue Sky Community Services** - December 23, 2024 at 03:18 PM

BS

“ *Blue Sky Community Services purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Jo Ann Bock.*



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**Blue Sky Community Services** - December 23, 2024 at 03:18 PM

CC

“ Cathy C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jo Ann Bock.

Cathy C. - December 21, 2024 at 07:29 PM

CC

“ Cathy C. purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Jo Ann Bock.



Cathy C. - December 21, 2024 at 07:29 PM