



Ruth Ann Vitko

December 14, 1939 - August 25, 2025

Ruth Ann Vitko, age 86, of Ottumwa, IA, passed away on Monday, August 25, 2025, at the Homestead in Centerville, IA.

Ruth was born on December 14, 1939, to Bernard and Beatrice (Lasley) Hayes in Putnam County, MO. She grew up attending school in Centerville and then attended Ottumwa Heights where she obtained her RN license. On January 21, 1963, she was united in marriage to James John Vitko in Angola, IN, and to this union, 4 children, Barbara, Teresa, John, and Michael, were born. Ruth and Jim were blessed with 43 years of marriage prior to Jim's passing on February 21, 2006.

Ruth dedicated her life to service as a Registered Nurse. She had a caring heart and love for helping others. Ruth was very strong in her faith and was a devoted member of St. Mary of the Visitation church in Ottumwa. She enjoyed spending time with her friends and was an active member of Women's Club and the Ottumwa Book Club. Ruth's greatest pride was her family, especially her grandchildren.

Ruth is survived by 3 children, Barbara (Jeff) Ackles of Friendswood, TX, Teresa (Juan) Barajas of Garland, TX and John (Deborah) Vitko of Rathbun, IA; 10 grandchildren; and several great grandchildren. Ruth is also survived by several nieces, nephews, cousins and good friends.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Jim Vitko; a son, Michael Vitko; her parents, Bernard and Beatrice Hayes; and 2 sisters, Helen and Shirley.

Visitation will be held from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 27, 2025, at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia with Ruth's family present to greet family and friends. A Christian Wake Service will be held at 7:00 p.m.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 28, 2025, at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with Father Isaac Essel officiating. Burial will follow at St. Mary's Cemetery in Albia.

A memorial has been established to the Mystic American Legion.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Cemetery

Albia, IA

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 27. 5:00 AM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Tharp Funeral Home
116 Benton Ave.
Albia, IA 52531
(641) 932-3129
<https://www.tharpfh.com/>

Christain Wake Service

AUG 27. 7:00 PM (CT)

Tharp Funeral Home
116 Benton Ave.
Albia, IA 52531
(641) 932-3129
<https://www.tharpfh.com/>

Memorial Service

AUG **28**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Tharp Funeral Home
116 Benton Ave.
Albia, IA 52531
(641) 932-3129
<https://www.tharpfh.com/>

Tribute Wall

TS

“ I really enjoyed working with Ruth at McCord Manor, now Oakwood. She was a great mentor and I learned so much from her that I carried with me during my career as an LPN. Twila Sample

Twila Sample - August 27, 2025 at 09:46 AM

RB

“ I am Ruth Ann's maternal third cousin. We shared great-great-grandparents Patrick and Hannah Hicks Neal of northeast Missouri, Schuyler County. I and our cousin Jim Bruner look after the perpetual care of the rural cemetery where Ruth Ann's mother Beatrice Lasley Hayes was laid to rest. Quite earlier on I met Ruth Ann when I was invited to Beatrice's home southwest of Ottumwa. We remained in touch. I have a keen interest in genealogy and Ruth Ann was happy to help me.

I was asked to share a night of dancing in Ottumwa at Fraternal Order of Eagles. This was some time ago. I am saddened to learn of her passing. She was a kind woman and a lady.

Sincere sympathy and condolence,

*Gene Bruner,
Downing, MO*

Robert E Bruner - August 27, 2025 at 08:13 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ruth Ann Vitko.*



August 25, 2025 at 07:20 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ruth Ann Vitko.*



August 25, 2025 at 06:31 PM