



Charlotte Ann (Trofimchuck) Curtis

August 10, 1933 - February 5, 2026

Charlotte Ann (Trofimchuck) Curtis
(née Vaira)

Charlotte, Age 92, passed away peacefully on February 5th, 2026, under the loving care of Lightways Hospice at Serenity Estates in Morris, IL. She was born August 10, 1933, to Anton and Lucy Vaira in South Wilmington, IL. She graduated Gardner-South Wilmington High school in 1951 than In August of 1955 she married Frances A Trofimchuck and together had five children.

From 8 years old Charlotte dreamed of flying. She obtained her dream at 18 years of age and took her first solo flight on Sept 20, 1952 at the Joliet Airport. She started her family at age 22 and returned to flying in 1971. She was the owner of Char's Aviation at the Morris Airport in the 1970's. She achieved her flight instructor rating and took great joy in sharing her passion as she taught numerous students how to fly. Pilots remember her as a local aviation legend. She was also a police dispatcher at the Coal City Police Department for a number of years.

She enjoyed her faith and attended the catholic church in Coal City. God and prayers helped her through many trials and joyous occasions. But above all, her family was her greatest treasure. She enjoyed gathering with them and each family member was special in their unique way to her. She loved when her grandchildren came over for work days at her house and when they helped her every year decorate for Christmas. She felt greatly blessed to be called Mom, Grandma, Great-Grandma and Great-Great-Grandma.

She married the love of her life, Gary Curtis, on Sept 3, 1983 and enjoyed traveling in his company throughout his life with her. They were avid Chicago Bears fans fully engaged in each game and very excited throughout the games.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Gary Curtis, her siblings, Catherine Vaira, John (Jackie) Vaira, Sr. Patricia Vaira, Marilyn McLennan, Joseph Vaira, and her brother-in-law, John McLennan, special friend and sister-in-law, Judy (Trofimchuck) Vondracek, grandson in infancy, Jerry M Planeta, step-daughter, Tammy (Curtis) Wilsterman.

She is survived by her children, Michael (Pat) Trofimchuck, Daniel Trofimchuck, Catherine (Jerry) Planeta, Mark Trofimchuck, Matthew (Jana) Trofimchuck. Her grandchildren, DJ (Michelle) Trofimchuck, Jason (Echo) Trofimchuck, John (Lucia) Trofimchuck, Brandi (Jason) Hamrick, Christine (Matt) Daigger, Alex (Ipek) Wilsterman, Matthew (Rachel) Trofimchuck, Shawn (Danielle) Planeta, Casey (Justin Richison) Wilsterman, Amanda (Anthony) Pogliano. Great-Grandchildren, Jacob Biggs, Calina (Josh) Bass, Chance (Nicole) Baxter, Kameron Biggs, Shaelyn Trofimchuck, Chayse Boomfield, Linkin Trofimchuck, Jaxon Trofimchuck, Maddix Trofimchuck, Teigan Trofimchuck, Jaxson Trofimchuck, Journey Trofimchuck, Grayson Trofimchuck, Huxlee Pogliano, Renae Trofimchuck, Roxzen Pogliano, Levi Trofimchuck, River Planeta, Ronin Richison and Nolan Daigger. Great-Great-Grandchildren, Iris Bass, Brexton Baxter, Killian Bass, Jettson Baxter.

Visitation will be held at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Coal City, IL, on Friday, February 13, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will begin at 11:00 a.m. with Father Josh Miller officiating. Graveside service will take place at 1:00 p.m. at Woodlawn Memorial Park in Joliet, IL.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Lightways Hospice of Joliet.

To share memories or offer condolences, please visit Charlotte's online guestbook at www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find us on Facebook.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory
401 E. Main St., Braidwood, 815-458-2336
www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com

Cemetery Details

Woodlawn Memorial Park

23060 W. Jefferson St.
Joliet, IL 60431

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 13. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church
245 South Kankakee Street
Coal City, IL 60416

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 13. 11:00 AM (CT)

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church
245 South Kankakee Street
Coal City, IL 60416

Inturment

FEB 13. 1:00 PM (CT)

Woodlawn Memorial Park
23060 W. Jefferson St.
Joliet, IL 60431

Graveside service will take place at 1:00 p.m.

Tribute Wall

PT

“ I am so sorry for your loss. May she rest in Peace.



Patricia Thompson - March 18 at 02:37 PM

AS

“ So very sorry to hear of Char's passing. She was a huge influence on my mother's (Bernie Sadowski) aviation career. She was a great lady, and someone I looked up to.

Andrew Symons - February 14 at 12:06 PM

DE

“ Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced with the skies
on laughter silvered wings
Up, up the long delirious burning blue
I've topped the windswept heights with
easy grace
And while with silent lifting mind, I've
trod the high untrodden sanctity
of space
Put out my hand
and touched the face of God.

excerpt from *High Flight*,
a poem by John Gillespie Magee Jr

Debbie - February 11 at 09:36 PM

ES

“ *Cathy and family, I am deeply sorry for the loss of your mom, Charlotte. Please be assured of my prayers for her and you all.
Sincerely, Erica Storey*

Erica Storey - February 10 at 10:29 AM

BW

“ *My thoughts are with you all. And at times like these somehow no words can convey the feelings of sorrow that is felt. Char was a truly wonderful lady. I hope you might take a tiny bit of comfort in knowing she is with Gary and Tammy and of course God Almighty. She will be missed for certain.*

Bruce Wilsterman - February 09 at 06:50 PM

MC

“ *Deepest sympathy is being sent to family. Years ago, I did Char's hair ; she was such a thoughtful and kind person and followed her faith.
Rest In Peace, Char. 🌹❤️🙏
Michaeleen and Don Clavey*

michaeleen clavey - February 08 at 08:21 AM

CM

“ *My deepest heartfelt condolences to all of you as you gather in love to celebrate Charlotte's life and legacy.*



Catherine Miner - February 07 at 11:30 AM

AV

“ *My auntie my godmother my dad's sister my family she will be missed even though I'm so far away she's never been forgotten and thank you for the Thanksgiving dinners in the celebrations we've had together. Love always and you're in God's hands now Amen.*

Ann Vaira - February 07 at 10:44 AM

JO

“ *No words are ever adequate in times like these. I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your mother. Our whole family is praying for you in the difficult time.*

John - February 06 at 08:47 PM

DA

“ *Our condolences to the Trofimchuck family! I can't wait to meet Charlotte in Heaven and have fun talking about our aviation adventures!*

Danny Aavang - February 06 at 08:40 PM

CH

“ *PRAYERS TO THE FAMILY, I WORKED WITH CHAR, AT CCPD. GREAT LADY. SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS.*

CHUCK - February 06 at 08:33 PM

MT

“ I know my cousin Shawn can relate to this and one of my childhood memory's I'll never forget is throwing old aerosol cans into the burn pit when we where cleaning out the shop and picking up leaves and one of them blew up she opens the door and yelled at us however little did she know the big one did not blow yet and when it did it knocked over the burn barrel and rolled so much black smoke she was so mad at us but later we looked back it it and laughed together and it some how always got brought up at all the family gatherings since !!! I'm gonna miss her so much ! I love you grandma char ! You will be always missed until we meet again !!

Matthew Trofimchuck - February 06 at 08:11 PM