



## Carol G. Saunders

January 31, 1939 - October 2, 2025

In Loving Memory of Carol Godsave Saunders (1939-2025).

### A Pioneering Educator and Devoted Matriarch

Carol Godsave Saunders, a woman whose life was defined by a profound dedication to learning, family, and community, passed away on October 2, 2025. She was 86.

Born on January 31, 1939, to the late William Albert and Hazel (Planck) Godsave, Carol grew up in Montrose, MI. She was preceded in death by her sister, Sandra J. Hill. Her bright mind and compassionate spirit were evident from an early age, leading her to Central Michigan University, where she graduated in 1961, ready to embark on her calling as an educator.

Carol began her teaching career in history at Cherry Hill High School. After several years shaping young minds in the classroom, she made the conscious choice to leave her full-time position to dedicate herself to raising her two sons. During those years, she remained connected to education through substitute teaching until her boys were old enough. With her children more independent, Carol enthusiastically returned to her professional passion, first launching her impactful work in adult education with the South Lyon school district, before bringing her talents to the Plymouth Canton Schools.

It was in Plymouth that her vision for lifelong learning truly flourished. Carol was the Creator, Administrator, and Principal of the Adult Education Program at Starkweather School. In this pioneering role, she built a program from the ground up, empowering countless adults in the community with new skills and second chances, a testament to her belief that learning has no age limit.

Her commitment to service extended into the community as an active and dedicated member of the Plymouth Rotary. Through this role, she continued to mentor and guide the next generation as the Interact Advisor at the PCEP Interact Club, helping young people develop leadership skills and a heart for service. Carol was active in many areas of her community, always seeking ways to contribute and connect.

During her early years in education, she met Darell Saunders. They married and shared 57 years of love and partnership before his passing in 2021. Together, they raised two sons, Travis and Todd. Carol was the steady, guiding force behind her family. While Darell led adventures in hunting and fishing, Carol provided the foundation of knowledge, values, and unwavering support. A lifelong learner and a whiz with facts, she loved trivia and was a big fan of Jeopardy; being a history teacher certainly had its advantages. The family spent many cherished summers at the family cabin on Stuart Lake near Clitherall, MN, a place where Carol could relax, enjoy her family, and watch her sons and, later, her grandsons discover the joys of the Northwoods.

Carol's life was one of quiet strength and immense impact. From a young girl in Montrose to a pillar of the Plymouth community, she dedicated herself to the service of others. She taught us all the power of education, the importance of community, and the enduring strength of a loving family.

She was the beloved wife of the late Darell. Cherished mother of Travis (Carol) Saunders and Todd (Marla) Saunders. Proud grandmother of Troy

(Erika) Saunders and Jake (Jordan) Saunders. Adoring the great-grandmother of Walker and Oakley. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. She was a dear friend to many.

Visitation will be on Sunday, October 12, 2025, from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM and on Monday, October 13, from 11:00 AM until the 12:00 Noon Service Funeral Service at the Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Road West, Plymouth.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations be made in Carol's memory to the Plymouth Rotary Club Foundation, Post Office Box 5401, Plymouth, Michigan 48170

To share a memory, please use the share a memory tab on this webpage/

# Cemetery Details

## United Memorial Gardens

4800 Curtis Road  
Plymouth, MI 48170

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 12. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth  
46401 Ann Arbor Road West  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 459-2250  
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

## Gathering of Family and Friends

OCT 13. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth  
46401 Ann Arbor Road West  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 459-2250  
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

## Funeral Service

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OCT **13**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth  
46401 Ann Arbor Road West  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 459-2250  
[plymouth@vermeulenh.com](mailto:plymouth@vermeulenh.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ Vermeulen Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Carol G. Saunders



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Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home - October 07, 2025 at 12:40 PM



“ Vermeulen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Carol G. Saunders



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Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home - October 07, 2025 at 09:58 AM



“ Jack& Karen, Tom, Keith & Cindy & family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carol G. Saunders.

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Jack& Karen, Tom, Keith & Cindy & family - October 08, 2025 at 10:36 PM

JF

“ Jack& Karen, Tom, Keith & Cindy & family purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Carol G. Saunders.



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**Jack& Karen, Tom, Keith & Cindy & family** - October 08, 2025  
at 10:36 PM

DB

“ Here are few things that make me smile when I think of Aunt Carol:  
- When I was little, she would bring fresh peaches to us in South Dakota. I didn't like them because they didn't taste like "real" peaches you get from a can.  
- When I was in middle school, I could never beat her in arm wrestling.  
- I could listen to her talk all day about history ... something I was never interested in because it was not math or science.  
- She always ... I mean always ... welcomed my bi-cultural, bi-lingual family into her home.  
- And she always ... and I mean always always ... was quick to make a pan of carmel rolls.  
I read one time that you know the deceased has made it to heaven if you can recall how they touched your soul.  
Aunt Carol is definitely in heaven.  
I love you, Aunt Carol.

*Doug (&Yoko) Butler*

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**Doug Butler** - October 08, 2025 at 12:28 PM