



# Ione Russell

October 25, 1929 - November 14, 2025

IN MEMORY OF:

Ione Russell

Serving Location:

CRAIN PLEASANT GROVE-MURDALE FUNERAL HOME

31 Memorial Drive, Murphysboro, Illinois

Ione Russell, a longtime resident of Carbondale, IL, passed away on November 14, 2025, surrounded by the love of her family. She was an accomplished artist, a devoted mother and grandmother, and a woman whose quiet creativity, resilience, and deep compassion touched everyone who knew her.

Born in Benton Harbor, MI to Milton and Dorothy Stillwell, Ione grew up near Lake Michigan, where her early connection to water later inspired much of her artwork. Ione married William J. Russell in 1955. After receiving his degree as a civil engineer, Bill and Ione moved to Southern Illinois where they raised their four children.

In 1988, after a long-awaited trip through Germany, Austria, and Italy, Ione

returned home with inspiration that led to her two passions: Painting and Ice skating. Though she dabbled in art classes, lone was largely self-taught. She later joined the Art Center in Marion and became a member of the Art Colony at the Unitarian Fellowship.

lone's artwork, often filled with oceans, streams, and winter landscapes, reflected her sense of harmony and love of the natural world. She created tender detailed portraits of all her children, grandchildren, and their beloved pets, each one a lasting testament to the joy she found in her family.

Skating was another great delight in her life. When an ice rink opened an hour from her home, lone embraced it wholeheartedly, eventually teaching lessons even into her 70's. Her husband, knowing her love of skating, even tried flooding parts of their yard in winter, hoping to give her a patch of ice to skate on at home.

lone worked briefly in medical records at the Carbondale Clinic, but the heart of her life was her family. She was an excellent cook who poured love into every holiday meal, birthday cake, and Sunday dinner. Together, Bill and lone built a backyard pool, which became the center of years of treasured moments: birthday parties, spectacular fish fries, summer days filled with laughter, and countless family memories we all cherish.

Her favorite season was autumn and Halloween, when the crisp air, colorful leaves, and bonfire evenings, especially on her birthday, brought her peace and joy. In her later years, she faced physical challenges, including carrying oxygen and difficulty walking, yet she remained spirited and loved. In her final days, her family reminded her that she would one day walk again in the woods, glide across her own private pond on ice skates surrounded by snow covered trees, and paint endless sunsets.

lone is survived by her daughters, Sherri Lynn LoMedico, son-in-law Mike of Jackson, Mo, and Nancy Russell Trude, son-in-law Edward, of Carbondale, IL, her sons, William J. Russell IV of Florida, and Randy R. Russell, of Carbondale, IL, and beloved grandchildren Tony LoMedico (Karen), Matt LoMedico (Julie) Alex, Jordan, and Sydney Trude, Hunter Russell, Hailey Bohannon and great grandson Joshua LoMedico. She was preceded in death by her husband William J Russell, her parents Milton and Dorothy, her brother Billy, and her sister Jean.

Her family will miss her terribly but her love and legacy will continue to shine in the hearts of those she held closest.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, November 19, 2025 from 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM followed by a Funeral Mass at 12:00 PM with Celebrant Father Joseph Brown, SJ at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Carbondale.

Entombment will follow the Mass at Pleasant Grove Memorial Park Mausoleum.

In lieu of flowers or donations, hug your loved ones a little tighter, tell them you love them, buy or pick flowers for them while they are alive, perform a random act of kindness, pick up a paint brush and don't worry that your strokes are not perfect, mistakes are just happy accidents. This winter take a walk in the snow and maybe you'll be lucky enough to find a frozen pond.

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

**Pleasant Grove Memorial Park Mausoleum**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

NOV **19**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (cst)

St Francis Xavier Catholic Church  
303 S Poplar St  
Carbondale, IL 62901-2709  
(618) 457-4556

### Funeral Mass

NOV **19**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (cst)

St Francis Xavier Catholic Church  
303 S Poplar St  
Carbondale, IL 62901-2709  
(618) 457-4556

### Entombment

NOV **19**. 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM (cst)

Pleasant Grove Memorial Park Mausoleum

# Tribute Wall

CL

“ So sorry to hear this. Mrs Russell was an absolute doll! She was a regular, like clockwork library patron, and always a delight when she picked up her usual 5 items. As she started needing a walker, we'd do a 'carry out' and always got a kick out of her "Skater" license plate. We will miss this charming lady. Our condolences to her family. -- The staff of Carbondale Public Library

Carbondale Public Library - December 11, 2025 at 05:48 PM

ND

“ lone was a wonderful addition to The Landings assisted living facility. She encouraged us to express our artistic abilities even when we were "all thumbs"! Lots of laughs and fun surrounded lone. She is missed but a precious 💖 memory. Thank you family for sharing her with us residents.

Nancy Doty - November 18, 2025 at 01:17 PM



“ lone was a lovely lady and neighbor. I treasure and remember our walks around our neighborhood together and our visits. She was such a talented lady with her paintings. May she rest in peace.  
Amber Hanson

Amber Hanson - November 18, 2025 at 01:00 PM