



## Mrs. Janet Baker Russell

November 4, 1923 - December 22, 2021

Mrs. Janet Baker Russell, a longtime resident of Chesterfield and most recently Dalton, passed away at the home of her granddaughter on Wednesday, December 22, 2021, shortly after celebrating her 98th birthday. Born in Northampton, MA on November 4, 1923, the eldest of three daughters of the late William H. and Ruth Anderson Baker, she graduated from Northfield Mount Hermon.

For decades, Janet was employed by the Hampshire County Regional School District, where she managed the elementary school's kitchen since the mid 1940s. She took great pride filling the bellies of hundreds of children who walked through her lunch line. She even went above and beyond to assure the children had a healthy meal and that the program stayed within budget. She never took a sick or personal day with the exception of when she donated a kidney to her son, Thomas. It was not until a 2013 illness that she was forced to retire and moved to Dalton to be closer to her family.

She enjoyed watching the Red Sox and critiqued their every play. Her love for them started when, as a small child, she would listen to the games on the radio with her father. She knew that baking was a science and cooking was an art and enjoyed teaching her skills to her great grandchildren every day after school. She attentively watched the northeast birds (and squirrels) at her feeder. She was an avid reader and enjoyed many different genres but could

never resist a good romance novel. She knitted and crocheted hundreds of hats, mittens, sweaters, scarves, and socks for family and friends. Above all things, the time spent with her grandchildren and great grandchildren brought her the greatest joy. Watching her great grandchildren play sports and hearing of their adventures filled her heart with deep love.

Janet was predeceased by her beloved husband of 62 years Edwin W. Russell, whom she married on May 31, 1944. Edwin passed away on June 30th, 2006. She is survived by her granddaughter and caregiver, Sharon Russell Nealon (Donald) and their children Olivia, Donald, EmmaGrace, and Anna. A grandson, Michael Russell (Nicole Guttenberg) and children Trevor and Cooper of Quincy, MA. A sister, Ruth White of Denton, TX and many loving nieces and nephews. In addition to her husband and parents, Janet was predeceased by her daughter Phyllis (age 2) and sons Thomas (age 47) and Phillip (age 18) all of Chesterfield, and a sister Lois Ford.

The family would like to express their deep appreciation for the amazing support of the remarkable caregivers from HospiceCare in the Berkshires. You truly have magical superpowers.

Funeral Notice:

At Janet's request, there will be no formal funeral service. A celebration will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory can be made to the Chesterfield Historical Society or The National Kidney Foundation.

# Tribute Wall

PA

“ In Arizona we always had a wonderful time watching spring baseball. All of the Whites (Patty ,John ,Mike ,Matt ,Ruth) had a goodtime spending time with Aunt Janet.. She came out for Mom's(Ruth)'s 70 birthday party as a surprise. Mostly I enjoyed the vests that she wonderfully knitted for me. She was so good and fast. Mom always said she was a better knitter then her. I had such an enjoyable time with the Russell's. Like when I would spend time at the house with Uncle Edwin and Aunt Janet and Prince. I'll never forget inch me and pinch me were in a boat and inch me fell out who was left. Uncle Edwin would get me every time. I.enjoyed talking RedSox with her I told her in my last card that at least they made up for this year by beating those damn Yankees!!! I'm so happy that she is with Uncle Edwin and the rest of her children. Love you lots Aunt Janet and we will miss you

*Patty White*

*Ruth White*

*Billy White*

*Mike White*

*Matt White*

*Cheryl White*

*Trish White*

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**Patricia** - December 28, 2021 at 04:36 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



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**Sharon Marie** - December 24, 2021 at 09:29 AM

HT

“ Janet was wonderful to all of us children at Davenport School. Her cooking was the best and for some poorer families she would send home food to help the families. Her beans and prune whip were the best. I will always remember her with a big smile and her sweetness. God bless you Janet. RIP

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**Helen Fogg Torrey** - December 23, 2021 at 04:19 PM

JM

“ Mrs Russell was a great lunch lady at Davenport School! We all appreciated her cooking talent.  
One of my favorite memories is when we had peanut butter cornflake cookies!  
Also I remember her always walking and Never wearing slacks, always a skirt or dress and an apron!  
I lived on North road and many times driving past their home , Mrs Russell would be reading in a lawn chair! Her knitting was especially nice ! I remember her donating to Mother's club craft fair a couple pairs of mittens with a snowflake pattern!  
Jim and I send our love ❤️ and prayers to the family. May she now Rest In Peace.

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**Jean and Jim Marra** - December 23, 2021 at 02:59 PM