



Joan Irene Spilker

May 24, 1956 - November 7, 2019

Our dear sister, Joan I. Spilker, went to Heaven on November 7, 2019. She was born on May 24, 1956, to George and Eva Spilker. She was the fifth of nine children and was preceded in death by both of her parents, her older brother Richard, and her niece Danielle. She is survived by her siblings, James, Rita, David, Ralph, Paul, Leo, and Lisa, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Joan was blue-eyed like her dad and beautiful like her mom. She had the strong work ethic of both her parents, as well their wry sense of humor. Her sense of humor is definitely something we all will remember about her. She was tough, due to growing up with eight siblings in an old farmhouse on Silver Lake where she enjoyed swimming, water skiing, and family gatherings. Joan worked at the bank in Medical Lake from 1974 to 1994, and she was known by her customers as their favorite bank teller. She was kind and generous. Joan loved cooking, crocheting, watching movies, traveling, and reading romance novels, and her collection of owl figurines was huge. Joan made lasting relationships with the caregivers at Cheney Care Center. Services for Joan will be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2019, at 11:00 am at St. Anne's Catholic Church in Medical Lake, WA, followed by a private interment at Holy Cross Cemetery.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

NOV **20**. 11:00 AM (PT)

St. Anne's Catholic Church
708 E Lake St.
Medical Lake, WA 99022

Tribute Wall

DC

“ I met Joan about 10 years ago when I first moved to Four Lakes. I had some extra time on my hands when my kids were in an afternoon kid’s class so went to the Cheney Care Center to volunteer in the afternoon. As we chatted on that first visit, Joan asked me where I was from. “Montana,” I replied. “Oh, I’m sorry,” was her quick-witted response. I was so taken aback and couldn’t quit laughing; who says something like that the first time you meet them? I knew right away that I was going to enjoy getting to know her.

Sometimes we played Scrabble on the computer where she would beat me soundly every time. Occasionally she had mercy on me and helped me get a few good words, but usually she delighted in using all her tiles on a triple word score and watching my jaw drop open.

Sometimes I would get there at craft time where she would instruct me how to assemble her craft. She may not have been able to assemble her own, but her creations were definitely her own as she had a very creative mind and knew exactly what she wanted the end result to be.

As time went on, it was difficult to watch her already fragile health decline. I would go to visit, but I had such a hard time hearing her as it was getting more difficult for her to speak. But even as she was declining, she continued to walk the difficult path she was given with courage and humor. She was an amazing example what endurance under severe trials looks like and my life is richer for having known her. I know all of us who knew her will miss her greatly.

Rest In Peace sweet Joan

Darla Christian - November 18, 2019 at 05:24 PM



“ How deeply saddened I was to hear Joan had passed. Not that it was unexpected but one is never completely ready to hear such news. As I reflected on my memories of her it struck me that we had known each other for 50 years! I came to Medical Lake in the 8th grade the fall of '69 and was part of her graduation class of '74. Life took me away from the area for the next 20 plus years. Then I moved to Cheney in '97. It was sometime after that I learned Joan was living at the Cheney Care Center and we began to get reacquainted. I so enjoyed our visits. At first, conversation was relatively easy, yet as her MS progressed, we spent less time talking and more time watching *The Price is Right*. Joan's world became smaller and smaller and yet it was colorful and full of expression. It must have taken days to move her from one room to another! So many pictures and stuffed animals and figurines and owls! It was evident from what I saw and how she spoke that her family cared for her. The staff at Cheney Care Center also cared about her and always spoke of her in glowing terms and would respond immediately whenever she called for them. I know they are grieving too. That speaks highly of Joan. When I moved away 11 years ago our visits became less frequent but we continued to exchange Christmas cards. In over 20 years I never heard a negative thing come out of her mouth. Yes, the world could be victim of her incredibly sharp wit yet she never once complained about her situation or her care. I admired her greatly for that. Life did not offer an easy journey for Joan yet she lived it out the best way she could. With her sense of humor and tough spirit she touched all the lives that God brought into her world, and we will be forever blessed because of her. Joan, you patiently endured many years confined to this earth. May you now enjoy the freedom of your new home. Till we meet again my friend. -Chris Clemons

Chris Clemons - November 18, 2019 at 01:06 PM