



Vaunda Joan "Joann" Church

June 12, 1931 - July 22, 2014

Vaunda Joan Church (Joann), beloved mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend, died Tuesday, July 22, 2014, at her home in Fort Collins, Colorado, of lung cancer. Although she had quit smoking, it wasn't soon enough. If you smoke, stop - now. Lung cancer is a horrible way to die.

Joann was born June 12, 1931, in Wauneta, Nebraska, to Floyd and Nellie Dehart. The family knew hard times through the depression and World War II. Money was scarce and her father died when she was 11. They survived through the help of family and Joann's strong work ethic. Upon early graduation from high school, Joann went to McCook Community College. While attending college, she met her future husband and the father to her children, Roland Reed, Jr. (Corky). They lived in Arizona, Texas, Colorado, and lastly, Florida, where they were divorced. She moved back to Denver to raise her 4 children. She had careers as a teacher, instructor for the Air Force at Lowry AFB, and as a real estate investor and property manager. She lived much of her life in Denver, and upon her remarriage in 1978 to Fred Church, Jr., in Florida (Tampa and Lakeland). For some time, she has been a snowbird, traveling between Fort Collins, CO, and Lakeland, FL.

Joann was a special person who lived her life through love. That love was expressed in her strong relationships with the many people who knew her. Through the years, she embraced and helped many. She loved children and spent special time with the young ones showing them the flowers, the stars, and teaching them the power of language through poems and songs. She believed in education and attained her bachelor's degree in psychology from Columbia College while working and supporting her 4 children. She set an example of hard work, commitment to family, generosity, and joy and peace in the beauty of nature.

Her hobbies included interior decorating, traveling, gardening, Sudoku, crossword puzzles, reading, learning, playing bridge, writing old-fashioned letters, and investing. She especially enjoyed reading and learning about World War II, perhaps because it had such a profound effect on her and her family. She had a silly side that loved to tease and laugh,

and was teasing even through her final time with us. She made it through painful times through perseverance, faith, and belief in a better tomorrow. Joann loved life.

Joann is survived by her children Melanie J. Reed (Jerry Freier), Kim A. Reed, Lisa A. Jordan (Pete); stepson Fred F. Church III (Gale); grandchildren Kate Rust (Billy), Haley Neal, Matthew Neal, Calvin Jordan, Colin Jordan, Christian Jordan, Camille Tello, Ian Church (Victoria), Kayla Church; sister, Irene Wright (Loran) of Palisade, Nebraska; as well as great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews, "adopted" children, and granddoggies.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Fred F. Church, Jr.; her son, Mark A. Reed; her parents; and her siblings Merle Fortkamp, Leland Dehart, Marvin Dehart, and Mason Dehart.

The family wants to thank the nurses, therapists and doctors who have helped Joann for the last couple of months. We're disappointed that no one detected the cancer sooner, but many of her caregivers were outstanding people who made her smile and kept her going. We also thank family and friends who were there to help with meals, visits, and mommy-sitting, who sent cards or called, who tried to show their love to Joann and us in so many ways. And a special thanks to Gale and Ally for their long distance travels to be here; Gale flew from Florida to help us through the first week following her diagnosis, and Ally drove all the way from Boise to nurse Mom the last 2 days of her life. May God bless all of you for your gifts of love to Joann and her family.

A Celebration Of Life will be held at 2:00 p.m. Thursday, July 31, 2014, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 2000 S. Lemay Ave, Fort Collins, CO 80525. Donations can be sent to Halcyon Hospice or the American Cancer Society.

Events

JUL **Celebration of Life** 02:00PM - 03:00PM

31

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

2000 S Lemay Avenue, Fort Collins,, CO, US, 80525

Comments



“ Go rest high upon that mountain, Girl, your work on earth is done. Go to Heaven a shouting before The Father and The Son. Rest in Peace my Precious Aunt Joan. I will always love you, never forget you and all the good times we had together.
Margaret and Bob Stamm



Margaret Stamm - July 26, 2014 at 10:44 PM



“ We send to Aunt Joan's children, spouses and grandchildren our deepest sympathy. I remember all the good times we had when I lived in Aunt Joan's home. I especially remember all the times Joan and I talked late at night, while she was ironing her family's clothing in Denver. Joan took me to the fashion shops and taught me where to look for the bargain sale racks for clothing. We had a great time. Joan taught me to like the finer things in life. She got me into the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority in Denver, and she ran me in the MS Beta Sigma Phi contest. She was there for me that big night. There were the times I babysat your 4 kids and we baked and ate cookies while your parents were out for the evening. I guess baking helped us all stay busy, and out of trouble while we had fun doing that activity together. I remember the move to Miami, and all the great places we toured. Your kids were very young, but I was almost 19 and had the time of my life touring all the historical places Joan planned to visit on our way to Miami. It was a great time. Joan loved to travel and sight see, almost right up until her death. I will miss her terribly and all the long chats on the phone. She was a great friend as well as a loving aunt. God Bless each of you,
Margaret and Bob Stamm



Margaret Stamm - July 26, 2014 at 10:08 PM



“ We extend our deepest sympathy to all of Aunt Joan's family. We are unable to attend the memorial service, but we will be there in our thoughts and prayers. We know how much you are missing your mother, but we are praying that God will give you guidance, comfort and peace in this very difficult time. We will always remember Aunt Joan's smile and her love for others. She was a very special lady and a wonderful aunt!

Our love,
Jerry & Nita



Nita Frost - July 26, 2014 at 12:23 AM



“ Irene And Loran lit a candle in memory of Vaunda Joan "Joann" Church



Irene and Loran - July 25, 2014 at 07:27 PM



“ Bonnie, Lloyd, Mike And Shannon lit a candle in memory of Vaunda Joan "Joann" Church



Bonnie, Lloyd, Mike and Shannon - July 25, 2014 at 02:45 PM



“ Chrissy lit a candle in memory of Vaunda Joan "Joann" Church



Chrissy - July 25, 2014 at 02:31 PM