



Joyce Abel

May 15, 2025

Joyce Long Abel passed away peacefully at the age of 94 on Thursday, May 15, in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Joyce was born on July 12, 1930, in Chicago, Illinois to Dorothy Zerweck and Harry Lester Long. The youngest of two daughters.

Joyce spent her younger years growing up in St. Louis where she attended University City High School. After graduation, she went on to attend William Woods College in Fulton, MO then transferred to Washington University in Saint Louis, Mo where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education. It was at William Woods where she met and would later marry her beloved husband, Charles C. Abel, MD with whom she devoted 53 years of marriage.

After graduating from Washington University, Joyce was hired by the Ladue School District as a Physical Education teacher where she shared her enthusiasm for exercise and fresh air.

As her children grew, Joyce began her dedication to volunteer work. As a member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority, she was involved with the Sign of the Arrow shop. She also enjoyed PEO and Meals on Wheels just to name a few. Joyce was a joyful member of Central Presbyterian Church and was involved in teaching Sunday school for over 30 years, Broken Rainbows and Wedding

Consulting.

From Joyce's first golf date with Charles, to becoming a Forest Hills CC Charter Member, her devotion to golf never waned. The satisfaction of exercise and connecting with nature brought them much joy! Joyce was a sports enthusiast and could talk sports with the best of them. She had a love for baseball since childhood when she rode the city bus to Sportsman's Park with her sister to enjoy a game and keep score in the sunny bleacher seats. Joyce later visited the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. and the iconic "Field of Dreams," in nearby Iowa.

Joyce was independent and always ready to make travel plans with family and friends at a moment's notice. Freedom and adventure of being on the road was the motto Joyce lived by! Her car was her house on wheels. Paper maps, wedding silverware, and books on tape were a must. Driving the Baja Peninsula and following the Lewis and Clark Trail were two of her favorite highlights! Whoever Joyce would encounter, she shared, educated and encouraged them to experience travel.

Joyce was a loving, caring, doting and proud mother, wife, grandmother and great grandmother (Gaga). She is survived by her four children: Leslie Smith (Tom); Charles Jr. Abel (Lisa); David Abel (Christina); Diane Kallhoff (Steve). Grandchildren: Chase, Erik, Joshua, Melissa, Hannah, Christopher, Caroline, Hope, Blake. Great -grandchildren: Hudson, Alina , Gibson, Piper, Blakely, Sawyer, and Jackson. Sister-in-Law: Alice Walther.

In addition to her parents, Joyce was preceded in death by her loving husband, Charles C. Abel, sister Harriett Ann Taylor and granddaughter Kristy.

A celebration of life will be planned at a later time.

Joyce was a faithful servant of God. She's on the road again to Heaven.

Tribute Wall

JW

“ I met Joyce a year and a half ago when I began volunteering at her assisted living home with my dog, Pippa. I came to love Joyce, as did Pippa. Each week she would pull me towards Joyce's room in excitement to see her buddy. They would snuggle together, while Joyce and I chatted. I loved hearing the stories from her childhood, and youth. She was such a special and classy lady. Whenever I would leave, I would ask if I could get her anything and she would always respond, "no thank you, darlin". I cried the first week we went back and Pippa pulled me towards her room and Joyce wasn't there. We will miss her terribly, but feel so lucky to have gotten to know this wonderful woman.



Julie Whitney - May 25, 2025 at 07:19 PM

LM

“ Greetings from Indiana. Joyce was family and I remember her trips to rural Hamilton County to visit my grandparent's farm. So many kids running around, it is something I think about a lot these days. RIP Joyce . Much love and blessings to the family.

Lynn Morton - May 21, 2025 at 12:22 PM

TF

Hello from Vermont,

We feel so blessed for all the moments we shared with Aunt Joyce.

Whether visiting our lake house in northern Vermont with Diane, hosting her and her sister Annie on a road trip to see the fall colors, or doing puzzles together in California, every visit was filled with warmth and joy. Aunt Joyce was a deeply thoughtful and loving presence in our lives. We're grateful for the cards with a little cash for the boys on holidays and birthdays.

She and Annie were an inspiration with their road trip adventures around the country and down to Mexico like Thelma and Louise, a beautiful sisterhood. Being around her put you at ease. She wasn't judgmental, always ready with a smile, a kind word of encouragement, and often a sweet "darlin'" that made you feel like everything would be okay. Aunt Joyce showed up for others, supporting friends, spreading kindness, and making people feel important. We're especially grateful for our last visit with her and Annie during Christmastime, a memory we'll always cherish. We loved hearing them reminisce about their time as young girls on the farm playing in the hay and picking strawberries. We love you so much, Aunt Joyce. Thank you for bringing so much love and light into our lives and the lives of so many others. So much love to the whole family.

Love always,

Tim, Morgan, Bryce & Levi ❤️

Taylor Family - May 21, 2025 at 08:07 PM

MW

A very special friend. Big Cardinal fan as I am. We shared lots of memories. Maurice Wilhelm

Maurice Wilhelm - May 22, 2025 at 02:54 PM