



Joan S. Knudsen

March 21, 1935 - October 28, 2022

Knudsen, Joan, age 87, mother to 5, wife of 47 years to Frank and beloved grandmother to 4, passed away peacefully surrounded by family in Novi, Thursday, October 27, 2022. Joan was born March 21st, 1935 in Windber, PA to Peter and Julia (Metro) Sweltz. Mother to Clifford (Carolyn), the late Carla, Russell (Tanya), Martin (Renata), and Lance (Susan). Grandmother to Andrew (Carly), Olivia (Troy), Hadley and Jacqueline. Raising five children was a challenge that Frank and Joan made look easy. Everyone who knew them witnessed the commitment and love they gave their daughter Carla who suffered from Battens disease. In addition to the wonderful care she gave her daughter, Joan provided decades of support to her boys and the shenanigans of lawn care, car repair, and endless motorcycles. Amidst the chaos of her household, Joan always had a cooler filled with handmade sandwiches, and iced-tea for her boys as they headed out the door to yet another race weekend. Joan worked at Madonna University in the Financial Aid Dept for 30+ years. During her tenure at Madonna, her widespread efforts and commitment to student success benefitted many. Her triumph in helping students is still felt and echoed by others to this day and will be greatly missed by future generations. Joan made many wonderful friendships and always loved helping others. The legacy of this generous and caring woman is the hospitality and family memories she constantly made an effort to create. Joan had an overwhelming ability to always remember all the birthdays, anniversaries, and special dates for everyone in the family. She was the chief

historian for both sides of the family, the glue that held everyone together. Her wonderful stories and contagious laughter will be cherished by all the many nieces and nephews forever. There was always an available seat, a drink, and a zip lock bag of leftovers at the Knudsen holidays. Rose Living Center, her home for the past three years, brought her so much joy and new friends. Her last moments were sitting with her friends playing the BINGO she loved. In state Saturday, November 5th 9:30 AM until the 10:30 AM Funeral Mass at St. James Catholic Church, 46325 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48374. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to BDSRA Foundation (Batten Disease Support Research Foundation). Website bdsrafoundation.org. Phone # 1-800-448-4570. To share a memory, please use the Share a Memory tab on this webpage.

Previous Events

In state

NOV 5. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

St. James Catholic Church
46325 W. 10 Mile Road
Novi, MI 48374

Funeral Mass

NOV 5. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

St. James Catholic Church
46325 W. 10 Mile Road
Novi, MI 48374

In state at 9 AM

Tribute Wall



“ *Joan S. Knudsen*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joan S. Knudsen.*



November 03, 2022 at 07:59 PM



“ *Kathleen M Blontz purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Joan S. Knudsen.*



Kathleen M Blontz - November 03, 2022 at 02:43 PM



“ *Joan was a good friend and colleague at Madonna University for many years. I remember her smiles, friendly greetings, and warm, humorous conversations. She helped many of our students achieve their dreams of a Madonna degree. Rest in peace, Joan. You lived well! Dennis Bozyk, Associate Professor, Madonna University*

Dennis Bozyk - November 03, 2022 at 11:56 AM

JS

“ Joe & Diana Smotherman purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Joan S. Knudsen.



Joe & Diana Smotherman - November 03, 2022 at 10:00 AM

SS

“ Joan Knudsen changed our family's life. More than 30 years ago, I walked into her office not knowing how I was going to pay for my schooling. I wanted desperately to become a teacher. My husband had just been laid off from his job. I had no idea what help could be available and didn't even know the questions to ask. Joan Knudson sat me down and spent over an hour sharing how to make it possible. She then said, "if you ever need help, come see me. Don't ever quit school." 30 plus years later, I am now a principal of a large elementary school. I am where I am because of Joan Knudsen. I have never forgotten that moment. I have shared her advice and this story with hundreds of young people encouraging them and helping them navigate the paperwork.

Joan Knudsen's name has been on my heart throughout my life. I am forever grateful to God that He placed her in my path. The trajectory of her impact on changing lives is immeasurable.

*I can only imagine her welcome home. What an angel.
With deepest sympathy
Susan Stanley
Principal, Salina Elementary
Dearborn,*

Susan C Stanley - November 03, 2022 at 06:38 AM

GF

“ Greg Seguin Family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Joan S. Knudsen.



Greg Seguin Family - November 03, 2022 at 04:34 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Joan S. Knudsen.



November 01, 2022 at 11:09 AM