



Joan Estelle Valliere

APR 28, 1928 - AUG 12, 2022



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Beloved Wife, Devoted Mother, Grandmother, and Great Grandmother, Joan (pronounced “Jo-anne”) Estelle (Kolkowski) Valliere passed away peacefully on Aug. 12, 2022 in her home in Reston, VA surrounded by family. Joan is survived by her seven grateful children: Paula Stewart, Arthur (Erin) Valliere, James Valliere, Matthew (Judy) Valliere, Mark (Jenny) Valliere, Pamela (John) Tomaszewski, and Lisa Valliere Gray, along with 22 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. Joan was preceded in death by her husband, Paul James Valliere, parents, James Stanley and Flossie Amelia (Duquette) Kolkowski, and two siblings, Mary Jane Young and George Kolkowski (infant).

Joan was born on Apr. 28, 1928 in Muskegon, MI. She was a graduate of St. Jean’s Catholic School and attended College of St. Teresa in Winona, MN. Joan worked for Hardy-Herpolsheimer’s for two years, before moving to Chicago. There she worked as an Assistant Buyer at Carson Pirie Scott & Co. Joan also worked for Allstate Insurance as a young woman.

Although Joan had many potential suitors, it was her friend’s older brother and childhood sweetheart, Paul Valliere, that won her heart. After 15 years of friendship cultivated through the local French Catholic community, Joan and Paul married on October 24, 1953, at St. Jean Baptiste Catholic Church. Their union continued a multi-generational friendship between the Kolkowski and Valliere families.

Newlywed and yearning for a big family, she wasted no time pursuing her life’s passion of motherhood. Joan had her first child in November 1954 and her last and seventh child in July 1965. Birthing 7 children in 11 years including a set of twins was quite an accomplishment!

Joan’s strong will and determination was evident even as a child, earning her the nickname “Jo Jo the Tiger.” Those traits served her well in raising a family of 7 children, having grown up with only 1 older sister. She prioritized her family above all else, leveraging her creativity and



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resourcefulness in nurturing her children. Her kids' costumes, hand-made out of household supplies like tablecloths and electrical tape, were always a big hit.

Joan's love of life and human connection occupied most of her time. She spoke often with family and close friends on the phone, enjoyed receiving letters and cards, and kept a diligent calendar that ensured she never forgot a loved one's milestone. She was known by her children and grandchildren as a constant source of guidance and unconditional love. She also loved animals, family games, reading, movies, music, family reunions, flowers, and her beloved Paul.

Joan was a devout Catholic who never wavered from her belief in God. She endowed her children with the gift of Faith and was later referred to as the "prayer warrior," advocating and praying constantly for her family, friends, the deceased, and anyone in need. The Lord God blessed her richly in her efforts!

We look forward to our final reunion in the Kingdom of God, where there will be no tears, only joy!

Visitation will be held on Friday, August 19th at The Walburn Chapel of Sytsema Funeral and Cremation Services, 1547 W. Sherman Blvd., Muskegon, MI, 49441, from 5-7pm, with the Rosary prayed at 7:00 PM. The Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated on Saturday, August 20th at St. Michael the Archangel Church 1716 6th St., Muskegon, MI at 11am. Presiding will be Father Charlie Hall. Joan's final resting place is St. Mary's Cemetery, 1915 Park St. Please join the family for a time of fellowship and refreshments at St. Michael's school following the burial. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to one of Joan's favorite charities such as: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Catholic Relief Services, or the American Heart Association.



Events

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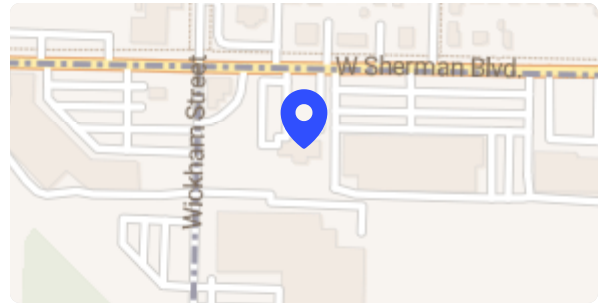
Visitation

Friday, August 19, 2022

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET

Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The Walburn Chapel

1547 W. Sherman Blvd., Muskegon MI 49441



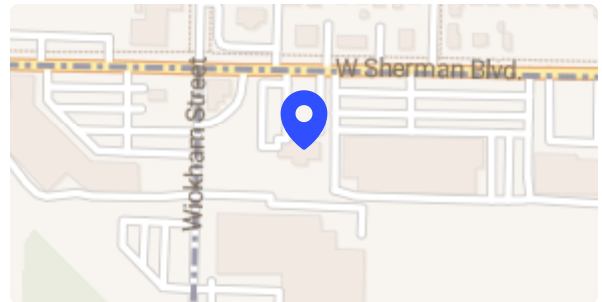
Rosary Service

Friday, August 19, 2022

7:00 PM ET

Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The Walburn Chapel

1547 W. Sherman Blvd., Muskegon MI 49441



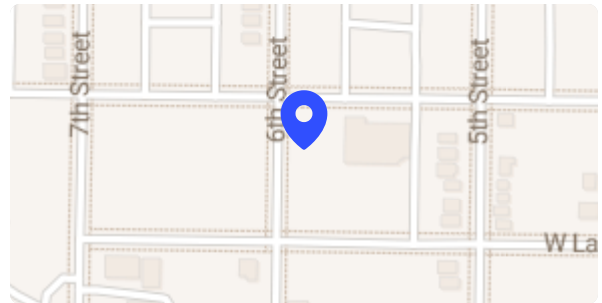
Mass of Christian Burial

Saturday, August 20, 2022

11:00 AM ET

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church

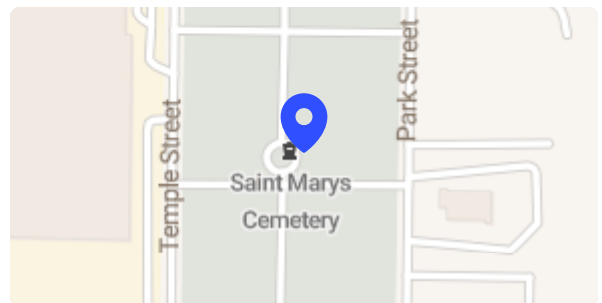
1716 Sixth Street, Muskegon MI 49441



Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Cemetery

1915 Park St., Muskegon MI 49441





Tribute Wall

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Pamela Tomaszewski posted:

I was fortunate to have had many one-on-one times with my mom! I cherish our time together driving to and from the skating rinks. Seeing her there by the boards in the freezing rink watching me and supporting me. We would often stop afterward at the local Baskin Robins where she always ordered a hot fudge sundae. Figure skating and Baton lessons and competitions centered around our time together. Mom would drive me to school mornings after practice. She would pick me up from school in the afternoon to return to practice often with cheese and crackers!! I remember one time when we rear-ended someone on our way to a practice and I had to accompany her to court to be her witness! Her putting makeup on me for a baton competition. Winter Olympics were a big deal especially the Figure Skating. She would wake me up around 11pm just to watch them. Believe it or not, my mom use to be a morning person!!! For my entire athletic childhood which spanned 10 years, she got me up (almost every weekday) and drove us to the ice rink in time for 6am practice. My mom was my #1 fan and supporter on and off the ice. I will always love and cherish these early memories of our times together. Love you Mom and miss you so much!!!!-Pam

October 10 at 1:36 PM



Gloria White Gardner posted:

Gloria White Gardner and Kimberly Woodard. Just in shock and overwhelmed to learn of Mrs. Valliere's passing. We are family since the 1950s. Mother and Daddy loved Joan and Paul. I lived in Reston near Mr. and Mrs. Valliere. Kimberly was very close to Lisa and the Twins. We all were attending St. Thomas a Becket CC. Kimberly and Lisa Attending school together every day and we also watched Pam practice skating. I'm at a loss. However we have so many memories forever. Sending prayers and hugs along with condolences from Rockville Maryland.

August 20 at 7:49 AM



Gloria White Gardner August 21 at 5:22 AM

Paula.....Jim.....someone please call me here in Rockville Maryland (231) 557-2498. Kimberly lives in DC. Been very very ill. She's with me for weekend. (202) 615-9626



Anonymous sent a Love's Journey to the Valliere family.



August 19 at 8:31 AM



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Anonymous sent an Arrive in Style to the Valliere family.

August 18 at 12:57 PM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful Heart Bouquet to the Valliere family.

August 17 at 9:02 AM



Anonymous sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Valliere family.

August 17 at 4:49 AM



RY

Ruth Young posted:

Aunt Joan was so kind to Alan and I. Both times Alan battled cancer she sent prayer cards, get well cards and rosaries. Alan slept with the rosary she sent him the last time he battled cancer until he died. We were blessed to know her. She was lovely inside and out.

August 16 at 11:46 AM



Ruth Young August 16 at 11:48 AM

I sent a donation from Alan and myself to the American Heart Association.



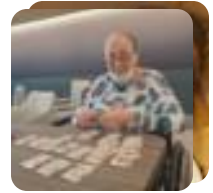
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Paula shared 2 photos to the **Favorite pics of Mom** album.



August 16 at 10:04 AM



Paula August 16 at 10:09 AM

God called Mom home last Friday where she joined Dad in eternity. She lived 94 good years, mother to 7 children, 22 grandchildren and 15 great grands with another one due next week. She had a zest for life right on up to the end overcoming recent battles with bronchitis as well as covid. We will miss her greatly but will take comfort in the many beautiful memories she left. We look forward to seeing her again in eternity. God bless her.



Media

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Paula shared 2 photos to the **Favorite pics of Mom** album.

August 16 at 10:04 AM



One of my favorites! Mom making the best of Covid Protocol!



July 23rd at the Rehab Center playing solitaire after beating me in a hand of Gin Rummy.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Joan by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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