



Janet M. Westlee

February 11, 1941 - April 15, 2024

Janet M. Westlee

Janet Marie Westlee (Vasseur, Lee) died on April 15, 2024, surrounded by the loving care of her wife, Judith (Judy) Westlee and her three children, Lin-Sue, Maria and Robert.

In many ways, Janet lived an extraordinary life. She was born on February 11, 1941, at their farm in Elk River. Born to parents Lawrence & Marie Vasseur, Janet was the oldest of 17 siblings. Janet was always a worker. From the beginning she helped on the farm, milking cows, crop farming, building and construction, cement work, and all that encompasses a working farm. She graduated from Elk River High School in 1959 and then attended the University of MN.

She had a myriad of professions. Janet owned and operated a restaurant with her former spouse, Robert Lee. She then attended the Minnesota School of Massage Therapy and became a massage therapist. Throughout her life she was a fixer, builder, gardener, and activist.

Janet decided to join a Lesbian community get together, and Judy hosted the gathering. Janet rang the doorbell and Judy welcomed her in. It seemed to Judy that Janet was more interested in Judy's cat and dog than Judy. That

was their introduction to each other.

Janet and Judy had a ceremony in June 1994 to complete their union, melding their last names to Westlee. Later, after the legal marriage law in MN passed, they were legally married on September 14, 2013. They had a committed partnership/marriage for nearly 30 years.

She always had a smile for those she loved. She had a quick wit even in the sad times. As cousin Ruth said, "Janet had a tough life. She had some struggles, but she pulled through. Life gave her lemons, and she made lemonade. NO, actually she made lemon meringue pie."

Janet battled blood cancer for decades and The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and Mayo Clinic Rochester provided a lot of support and resources over the years.

Janet is preceded in death by parents Lawrence and Marie Vasseur, 5 brothers and 1 sister - Vernie, Paul, Steve, Doug, Rose, and Tom, and her former husband, Robert.

Janet is survived by her wife, Judith Westlee, three children Lin-Sue Lee, Maria Lee (Aaron Burns), Robert (Jessica) Lee; three grandchildren - Gavin and Kaine Lee, and Hope Schmaltz. She is also survived by 7 sisters and 3 brothers - Eloise, Mary, Verna, Lena, Mike, Linda, Ann, Evelyn, and David - and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

"Be kind to one another" is the phrase that Janet used as her voice mail greeting, and she truly meant it.

Celebration of Life - Janet Westlee

Saturday, April 20, 2024, at Prospect Park United Methodist Church, 22 SE

Orlin Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55414

12-1 pm Visitation

1 pm Celebration of Life/Service

Food and beverages will be served after service

Parking available at Pratt School parking lot (across street from church)

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **20**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Prospect Park United Methodist Church
22 Orlin Avenue Southeast
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Celebration of Life

APR **20**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Prospect Park United Methodist Church
22 Orlin Avenue Southeast
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Webcast in memory of Janet M. Westlee



Washburn-McReavy - April 18, 2024 at 03:46 PM

RM

“ I just found out about Janet's passing. I am so very sorry for your loss. I met Janet through her massage work over 20 years ago. I was grieving the loss of my husband at the time. Janet was so kind and we bonded over shared stories and laughter as she , using her hands of steel, worked out the bound up muscles of my body. I've never found another who could work those miracles like Janet. At first her granddaughter Hope was just a tiny thing and would come in , with my ok, to 'help' Grandma with her tiny hands. I enjoyed seeing hope and chatting with Judy as well. I've missed Janet and her incredible talent for life. For fixing people, homes and gardens and I don't know what-all. I hope she is resting in sweet peace. Love to Judy and Hope.

Rita Martinez - June 25, 2024 at 01:12 PM

BS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Bernie Schmidt - April 19, 2024 at 11:42 AM