



Joan Rita Kongsvik

February 8, 1931 - August 4, 2024

Joan Rita (nee Koller), age 93, lovingly called Joanie KoKo, died peacefully at St. Therese of Woodbury on August 4, 2024 surrounded by loved ones. Preceded in death by husband, Floyd Grant Jr. (Bud), their children, Leo, Ann Veronica, James Peter, sister Donna and brothers Robert (Bob) and John. Survived by children Terri (Vaios) Eleftheriou, Joe (Cheri) Kongsvik, Mary (Neil) Lansing, Anne (Mike) Nichols; Grandchildren, Amy Karrow, Athena Flicek, Lydia (Mike) Turnbull, Molly (Danny) Olson, Michele (Pat) Eggleston, Hannah (Loren) Keller, Zachary Lansing, Heather Lansing; Great-Grandchildren, Avery, Lainey, Kinsley, Mira, Harper, Connor, Ari, Lachlan, Timothy, and Abigail.

Born in Minneapolis, the youngest of four, Joanie grew up competing against her two older brothers in every sport imaginable and graduated from the Academy of the Holy Angels. She went on to attend the University of Minnesota where she participated in theater, synchronized swimming and physical education. While raising her family and beloved dog Koko in Shoreview, she taught Physical Education, belonged to the ladies social guild and coached softball, volleyball and basketball at St. Odilia Catholic School and Church.

Joanie and Bud retired to Arizona in 1985 where she pursued all of her passions from golfing, bike riding, billiards, ping pong, and swimming, to

reading her favorite mystery novels (Mary Higgins Clark) by the pool. She also appreciated beating everyone at mini-golf and billiards well into her 80's, teaching arthritic water aerobics, and racing around Sun City West in her two favorite modes of transportation, her golf cart and bike she nicknamed "Blue Beetle." She enjoyed playing card games, crooning to Barry Manilow and made millions of scrubbies.

But by far Joanie's favorite past time was being a mom and grandmother. No one loved you as deeply and accepted you simply for who you were more than she did. Her joie de vivre was as infectious and captivating as her brilliant smile and bright bikinis. She will be missed by her dear sisters-in-law, Joan, Jeanne, Donna (Don) and many beloved nieces, nephews and friends. She will be loved for eternity by her family and friends. May she now return to her complete, vibrant self as she joins her Lord and Savior. Amen.

Celebration of life will be held on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at St. Odilia Catholic Church (3495 Victoria St. N., Shoreview, MN). Visitation will be held one hour prior to Service at 11:00am. Luncheon to follow. Internment will be held at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona in Phoenix at a date to be determined. A sincere Thank You to the caregivers, staff and hospice care team at St. Therese of Woodbury. You created peace at the end of a fabulous journey.

In lieu of flowers, please make a contribution to the charity of your choice.

Attention:

Railroad crossing construction on Victoria just north of St. Odilia. Anyone coming to church from 694 can take Lexington Avenue South to County Rd E, go left (East) to Victoria Street and then take a right (South) to church.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Odilia Catholic Church
3495 Victoria Street N.
Shoreview, MN 55126

Mass of Christian Burial

SEP 11. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Odilia Catholic Church
3495 Victoria Street N.
Shoreview, MN 55126

Reception

SEP 11. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Odilia Catholic Church
3495 Victoria Street N.
Shoreview, MN 55126

Tribute Wall

DM

“ Denise M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joan Rita Kongsvik.

Denise M. - August 28, 2024 at 10:13 AM

TF

“ The Simkins Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Joan Rita Kongsvik.



The Simkins Family - August 26, 2024 at 10:34 AM

CG

“ I never saw Aunt Joanie without a smile on her face. She was always happy. I will always cherish the memories made at Pipe Lake. Those were the best times ever! The holiday dinners were so special with the entire family. I am so very sorry for the loss of Aunt Joanie, your mom, friend to many. The world is a bit less colorful and it was a better place with her in it. Much love to you all! Cathie

Catherine George - August 11, 2024 at 05:37 PM

ML

Thanks so much Cathie George! We love you and yes we had the best times at Pipe Lake on the good ship lollipop!!

Mary Lansing - August 11, 2024 at 06:35 PM

CG

I just saw your reply Mary. I think about all of you daily. I wish I was there to give all of you a hug. Aunt Joanie was such a special person.

Catherine George - August 12, 2024 at 08:00 PM

CL

I don't have the best of memories, but I do remember all the fun Joanie and I had a St. Therese for a couple of years. we went for walks, did puzzles, played bingo, sang in the choir so we could visit Memory Care patients. We had a ball singing, hoping no one would hear us and we were going to sneak out of practice. But then decided to go with the others and sing. Little did we know the residents would remember all the songs. We had fun too; glad we didn't sneak out. Joanie won the Halloween costume contest (with my extra costume by the way) When Joanie moved to the main campus, we would swing on her back porch a lot. She was always smiling 😊. I would leave flowers and treats out on her door shelf. Oh, what a fun time we had! I loved that lady! May she rest in peace! Caroline Larsen

Caroline Larsen - August 23, 2024 at 10:03 AM

TE

Thank you Caroline! You were a kind friend and neighbor to Mom! You supported her in visits through her living transitions. Mom was always ready to find a new friend and glad you were there!

Terri Eleftheriou - August 31, 2024 at 11:26 AM

ML

Yes Caroline. I remember when you and mom and I went to a movie together in Oakdale. She even stayed awake for the whole movie. You were a good friend to mom and we appreciate your care and concern for her. Praying for you dear lady!!!

Mary Lansing - September 17, 2024 at 04:43 PM

AN

God bless you MoM 💕 Happy heavenly birthday.

Anne Kongsvik Nichols - August 04, 2025 at 02:57 PM

AN

💕1 year 💕 You're light shines Bright. I Love You💕

Anne Kongsvik Nichols - August 04, 2025 at 08:18 PM

ML

“ *In the middle of winter mom would put on all her winter gear including a down hat and got on her bike to ride it the 1 mile to school to teach Phy Ed. Love you always Mom!!!*

Mary Lansing - August 08, 2024 at 10:32 PM