



Joan Annette Murray

December 1, 1952 - January 17, 2019

With profound sadness we announce the passing of Joan Annette Murray, December 1, 1952 - January 17, 2019. Forever and always, we remember our loving and devoted mother, grandma, sister, aunt and friend. We imagine her on a warm beach gazing at a beautiful sunset, sipping a Mai Tai cocktail with her toes wiggling in the soft sand, enjoying her afterlife to the fullest.

Joan is survived by her children - Joseph Thomas Benchek and Crystal A. Murray, grandsons - Stryker Graham and Jack Haven. Preceded her in death by her daughter - Shelby E. Plummer, grandson - Ryder Graham, father - Alexander Murray, mother - Elsie Rose (Erose) Day (Zwick). Surviving siblings are Janet Storey, Jeff Murray, Jayne (Rick) Hildebrand and their families.

Joan loved her children and grandchildren with all her heart, showing and sharing love in living life, experiencing adventures and roller coasters! An avid hiker and adventure seeker, she developed many valued long-lasting friendships. One of her favorite vacation spots was Hawaii where she embraced the Aloha spirit, which brought her peace. A violinist since high school, Joan and friends entertained many at holidays throughout the years. She also became the co-founder of the musical group, Funky Ferns. Joan valued details in life through decorating gingerbread cookies, cakes and bakery creations. Joan captured the smallest details in the beauty of nature with her creative eye as a photographer. She enjoyed visual arts and

photography in which she tantalized the viewer to discover the meticulous clarity in nature. Subjects in nature range from the cactus bloom to the setting sun.

Joan retired in 2018 after 27 years at Landerholm, P.S., where she was a highly respected employee and made many life-long friends. A graduate of Clark College and Columbia River High in Vancouver, WA. She spent most of her life in the Vancouver, WA, area and was also known as Joan Plummer and Joan Benchek.

Joan's family appreciates and thanks the many individuals who brought joy to Joan through precious moments in her life. She was involved in many more clubs and organizations than we listed. It is with kindness we come together to share in memory, Joan A. Murray.

A Memorial Service will be held at Evergreen Memorial Gardens, 1101 NE 112th Ave, Vancouver, WA 98684 (360-892-6060), Saturday, February 9, 2019, 12:30 p.m. A reception will immediately follow in the adjacent hospitality room.

Joan's family requests you wear colorful, Hawaiian-themed clothing (if you are able to) to the service in honor of Joan's Aloha spirit.

Tribute Wall



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Evergreen Memorial Gardens - July 03, 2025 at 03:36 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Linda and Debbie - February 08, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *My big sister has passed. My heart is sad. I am comforted by knowing she is embraced by our loving mother, Erose and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Her life is about doing good for others. There is three of her siblings that remain in our mortal state Janet, Jeff, and I. Joan is a woman of courage. As a child, my admiration for Joan began from all her loving care to me as a baby, toddler, and young child. She just made tough things easier. I remember the silly songs we sang on car rides. Joan was a champion at changing the lyrics to add my name into the tune. I was always remembered by Joan, every birthday. With 8 years between us, she put up with my bothersome tricks with kindness and smiles. The teenage Joan: If I interrupted her sun-bathing ritual, which included the whole oil and foil covered reflection board, (mid 1960's) and I accidentally (?) spilt a cup of ice water on her... my punishment was an immediate chase and tickle fest reward. She was an accomplished seamstress. I loved hearing her play the violin and remember her joy when she earned 1st chair, violin I remember seeing her play in the orchestra at the old Ft. Vancouver High School on Main St. Coincidentally, which is where she took me to cruz the gut for my first time. She made normal life happen for me including learning to drive and use her car to get my driver license. Joan is a woman of feeling and filling the needs of others. Joan is a woman of integrity. Her loyalty to so many others did not exceed her loyalty to her children and grandchildren. I admired her honesty in my early years as I do today. I love you Joan. I miss you. Your sister, Jayne*

Jayne Hildebrand - February 04, 2019 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ My favorite thing about Joan was her ability to see the good in everyone and the beauty in everything. She always had these beautiful pictures of flowers and she told me that some of the flowers couldn't be seen unless you looked for them. So we would walk down a dirt path and she would stop to take a picture of a flower. I saw a dirt path. She saw the beauty in the dirt path. I will always take with me the lessons I learned from Joan. She was an amazing person.



Linda A. Price - January 24, 2019 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ My favorite memory of Joan was when she showed me her favorite place, Maui, for the first time. I will never forget it.

April Feldman - January 23, 2019 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ I have so many wonderful memories with my mom, but what I'll always remember the most is the unwavering love and devotion she had for her grandsons. Nothing was more important to her than making memories with them and making sure they knew they were adored and loved.
I know you're taking care of my sweet boy mom. Give him lots of hugs and kisses from mommy. I love you and will miss you so much. I hope you have found peace. ❤️

Crystal Murray - January 23, 2019 at 12:00 AM