



Joan C. Kelly

April 29, 1932 - February 14, 2022

Joan C. Kelly of Harrietta passed away Monday, February 14, 2022 at Maple Ridge Assisted Living in Cadillac. She was 89.

Joan was born April 29, 1932 in Detroit, Michigan to John and Amelia (Knez) Spolyar and they preceded her in death. On October 22, 1955 in Harrietta at Joan's parents' home she married Gene D. Kelly and he preceded her in death on June 21, 2020.

She graduated from Mesick High School as an honor student and earned her bachelor's degree in education from University of Michigan. Joan then went on to earn her master's degree from Wayne State University in Industrial Relations.

Mrs. Kelly taught at Mt. Clemens, Milan, Highland Park as well as Warren schools. She also taught in prisons and jails after moving back North. Mrs. Kelly loved spending time with her family and valued time together and family meals.

She is survived by children: Allen (Leann Landry- Kelly) Kelly of Edgewater, Maryland, Coreen (Robert) Robins of Bellingham, Washington, Tamsen (David) O'Grady of Harrietta, Michigan, Brian (Susan) Kelly of Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan; eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; siblings: Mary Ann Oren of Sun City, Arizona, Amelia Becci of West Bloomfield, James Spolyar, Las Vegas, Nevada and John Spolyar of Troy, Michigan and number nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband and parents she was preceded in death by a brother, Don Spolyar, sisters, Stephanie Ris and Marianne Oren.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be held 11:00 AM, Friday, February 18, 2022 at Saint Ann Catholic Church in Cadillac with Rev. Fr. Michael Janowski as celebrant. Friends may meet the family one hour prior to the service at church. Burial will take place at Sixteen Cemetery in Harrietta in the spring.

An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Cemetery Details

Sixteen Cemetery

Harrietta, MI 49638

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 18. 11:00 AM.

Saint Ann Catholic Church

Tribute Wall

JR

“ We are holding you in our thoughts and prayers during the loss of your Mother Joan. She was a kind, thoughtful woman. At the same time, my Father always tells me how tough she was in the classroom - back in their days together in Warren schools. I am so glad to have known her and for her raising Brian - whom I will always regard as a great friend.

Joe Rosingana

Joe Rosingana - February 18 at 04:13 PM

AM

“ Please accept my condolences. Joan is such a bright, positive, talented, beautiful woman! Losing your mother, no matter what age, is one of the most difficult things.

Stay strong.

Best regards,

Amy Kerzich

Amy - February 18 at 01:33 PM

“*Firstly, my deepest sympathies to all of Joan's children and grandchildren in this great loss. Joan was a good friend, so very kind and so very intelligent. She was the "Honor Student" (formerly called "valedictorian" which meant highest grade point average) in our high school graduating class of 1950. She delivered an appropriate speech that evening, with her characteristic wit, which kept the audience laughing. Joan was always humble in the good sense; she obviously knew that she was graced with superior intelligence but it was always balanced with her virtues of kindness, sympathy, charity, good will towards others, and immense and steady common sense. Joan Spolyar Kelly was a gem! I remember that she threw a party at her home for the entire class, shortly before our high-school graduation. Everything was done according to perfection, from the invitations, individual menu scrolls, and superb food. She cooked all of the food for all 37+ of us, which must have been a daunting task for a young lady of 18! Of course the party was a smashing success. Another special memory is that Joan and Gene, sometime during the late 1980s or early 1990s, came to visit me at my home in Old Town Alexandria, VA, and had dinner with me. They had been visiting one of their children in Maryland and "crossed the Potomac" to visit. It was a special evening. Although she was academically accomplished, it was obvious that the center of Joan's life, appropriately, was Gene and her children.*

Joan and I kept in touch, intermittently, over the years. I received a Christmas card this year, prepared by her daughter. She provided her phone number and asked me to call her, which I did, just a few weeks ago. We had a nice chat for several minutes. I promised to call again, and now this. I will always remember her fondly and with great affection and admiration. Dear Joan, Rest in Peace!

"Eternal Rest grant unto Joan, O Lord, and let Perpetual Light shine upon her. May her soul, and all the souls of the Faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen."

*Elizabeth (Betty Ann) Ex Poel
Front Royal, Virginia*

Elizabeth Poel - February 17 at 07:13 PM

AB

Thank you Betty! I cried all over again after reading your text. I am her younger sister.

Amelia Becci - July 02 at 03:06 PM

AB

Thank you Betty for your beautiful comments concerning my sister. I cried all over again after reading it.

Amelia Becci - July 02 at 03:08 PM

CK

“ Sorry for the loss of Joan Kelly,
The Colin P. Kelly family.
Big Rapids, Mi

Colin Kelly - February 16 at 11:52 AM

RA

“ I remember well our times at Mesick High. I was a classmate of Joan's sister,
Stephanie. I recall Joan as a very intelligent young lady....just like Stephanie.
Looking back, I'm amazed at the number of talented and good people who came
out of that school. May God grant you eternal peace, Joan. And may He give your
family comfort.

Ron Altman - February 16 at 10:23 AM

ER

“ Joan and I go back to Kindergarten at the Harrietta School, on through high
school graduation and all the years since. It is hard to give up those we've shared
a lifetime with. We always appreciated the loyalty of Joan and Gene to our class
and school alumni reunions, their pleasant company. I'm recalling, too, a
wonderful Holiday open house when she
hosted the Harrietta women's club in her home, everything so gracious and
festive foods. I accompanied my mother there and recall the lovely spirit of the
occasion. God rest you now, Joan, in peace and comfort.
Our sympathy to her beloved family in your loss.

Elsie Mannor Randall - February 15 at 08:16 PM