

Joan Carol Small



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Visitation will be 10:00a.m.-11:00a.m. Saturday, December 7, 2024, at Hennessey Funeral Home in Missouri Valley, Iowa.

Funeral Service will follow at 11:00a.m.

Joan Carol

(Peterson) Small, age 81, passed away as a result of a stroke and went home to

be with Jesus on Friday, November 29, 2024, at Longview Nursing Home in

Missouri Valley, Iowa. She was born on November 16, 1943, in Persia, Iowa to

Donald and Margaret Peterson. Joan married Gary Small on June 4, 1962, at St.

Anne Church in Pisgah, Iowa.

Joan and Gary

were self-employed in the apple orchard and fruits/vegetables business, selling wholesale and retail from their market along Highway 183 near Mondamin, Iowa.

Joan could always be found working in the market welcoming their customers with her warm beautiful smile. Her happiness was contagious.

Joan, often

referred to as Joanie, loved to play all different card games, play bingo,

read, and in the early days, dance. She had her first massive stroke in 2002

when she immediately quit smoking and began her fascinating journey of health

and sickness over the next 22 years. Joan was strong-minded, determined, and

had an incredible will to live. She loved family parties over the years. Family

was everything to Joan, she would "will her way out of a hospital

stay", to be able to join family events, weddings and holidays.

In February 2024

Joan and Gary went from independent living to being a part of the Longview

Nursing Home community. This last year Joan was fighting various health

conditions and spending more weeks in the hospital than not.

She was a

"light of joy and happiness" and had an infectious smile that she

loved sharing with family and friends. She was kind,

considerate, and respectful
to all, and willing to try anything to get better. We almost
lost her in
September from blood clots that caused pulmonary failure. The
staff at Lincoln,
Nebraska's CHI Heart Hospital did surgery and helped her to
feel better than
she had in years. To the staff there, we are truly grateful
for giving us
another 3 months with her. No parties were enjoyed more by
Joan than the few
days/nights of family coming to see her in Lincoln and telling
stories of what
everyone remembered that was meaningful to the teller. We all
had tears of
laughter! She enjoyed that so very much.

We also
acknowledge a heartfelt thank you to the staff of Generations
Hospice and the
staff at Longview Nursing Home, who cared for her during her
week of hospice
care. The grace, dignity, and love they gave to her, and to
our family, will
never be forgotten.

Remaining to
cherish Joan's life and memories are her Husband Gary Small,
Daughter Lori Kirk
(Significant Other Rich Felt), Son Dave Small (Wife Jennifer
Small), Son Ken
Small. Grandchildren Andrew Huff (Significant Other Phoebe
Hornbeck-Gearhart),
Cassidy McCorkle (Husband Colton McCorkle), Deric Small (Wife
Jessica Small),

Colton Small (Significant Other Charidy Kaiser), Jacob Small (Wife Maddie Small), Caitlin Tompkins (Husband Allen Tompkins). 15 Great-Grandchildren.

Joan was preceded in death by her Father Donald Peterson, Mother Margaret Peterson, Brother Teddy Peterson, Daughter Susan Huff, and Great-Grandson Theodore Small.