



JoAnn Ruehman

November 27, 1941 - February 2, 2015

JoAnn Ruehman, 73, passed away February 2, 2015 at the Rafter R Ranch in Fall River, KS surrounded by her husband of 48 years, William, and their two daughters, Kirsten and Kari.

Born in Saint Paul, MN on November 27, 1941, to Orville and Marion (Fosvig) Cluck, JoAnn pursued a lifelong commitment to educating herself and others. She graduated from Cedar Crest College in 1963, and went to work at the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission's Argonne Cancer Research Hospital in Chicago, IL, where she met cowboy and future husband, William Ruehman.

In the mid-70's, they moved from the Chicago area to Fall River, KS to pursue his work at Wolf Creek Nuclear Power Plant and to live a life on the range.

For 33 years she worked as Greenwood County Hospital's Education Coordinator in Eureka, KS. She kept active in her community of Fall River by teaching Sunday school at the Christian Church, serving at the Senior Center during the annual Fall River BBQ, organizing children's activities during the holidays and holding an office on the City Council.

Best known for her beautiful smile, generous spirit, inquisitive nature and creativity, JoAnn enjoyed bringing different ideas from around the world into Southeast Kansas. She instilled cultural curiosity in her girls and their

classmates through cooking ethnically diverse foods, teaching them to use Chinese chopsticks and adding heritage costumes to the dress-up trunk.

JoAnn once claimed her “Greatest Adventure” was participating in the Elderhostel Astronaut Camp at the Kansas Cosmosphere in 1998 honoring pioneer astronaut John Glenn’s return to space at 77 years of age. Her personal motto was: “The real voyage of discovery does not consist of discovering new lands, but in seeing with new eyes.”

In addition to her husband, William Ruehman, of Fall River, KS and two daughters Kirsten Ruehman and Kari Ruehman, both of Austin, TX, she is survived by stepson, Bill Ruehman (Kathy) of Elk City, KS; grandson, Marshall Ruehman, Claremore, OK; sister, Mary Jo Potter (Dr. William Z.) of Philadelphia, PA and Washington D.C.; sisters-in-law Phyllis Ruehman, Montfort, WI and Susan Ruehman, Portage, IN; aunt, Ruth Thorson, Cumberland, WI; cousins, Judi Berdis, Bert Berdis, James Waletzko, Scott Waletzko, Marjorie (Waletzko) Ronchi, Catherine (Waletzko) Tyler, David Thorson, Richard Thorson, Jean (Thorson) Odell, and Judith (Thorson) Catlin; and nieces, Marie (Potter) Eibel, Leah Potter, Chris Ruehman, and Ethyl Ruehman, as well as all of their spouses and children.

She was preceded in death by her parents; aunt, Dorothy Waletzko; cousin, Thomas Waletzko; and nephews, Steven Ruehman and Keith Ruehman.

At the request of JoAnn, no funeral or memorial services will be held. Personal condolences and memories of JoAnn will be cherished and may be sent in care of: Countryside Funeral Home, 420 S. 20th St., P.O. Box 247, Fredonia, Kansas 66736.

Memorial donations may be made to the “China Pioneer Fund” (a scholarship

fund for law students enrolled in a China international study program) and sent to: China Pioneer Fund, c/o Sister Grace Walle, St. Mary's University, One Camino Santa Maria, San Antonio, Texas 78228.

Tribute Wall

BH

“ JoAnn was a huge part of my life growing up. She was like a second mother to me. Kirsten and Kari were two of my best friends growing up and Kirsten was a bridesmaid in my wedding.

My some of my favorite memories with JoAnn:

When my daughter Terry was born. She drove me to the hospital when I was in labor.

She made us laugh, chewed our butts when we needed, but always made sure we knew we were loved.

She still showed me love when I lived in Fall River a year ago. I remember helping her get the computer working so she could watch Kirsten graduate from college.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. I am so sorry to hear of her passing.

Brenda Lea Hatfield (Burt)

Brenda L Hatfield - March 10, 2015 at 10:21 PM

BH

“ Wonderful lady who will be greatly missed. She did an awesome job of teaching Sunday school and helping out with 4-H, all the kids loved her. I have a lot of fond memories of riding to work together and the conversations we had. Sending love and hugs to Bill and the girl's.

Brenda Hawn

Brenda Hawn - March 05, 2015 at 10:37 PM

SJ

“ I knew Joann from 4-H days. What was wonderful woman. Years later we came back to visit the GW CO Fair and my son befriended her. A beautiful person. We're so sorry to hear of her passing.

susan erickson johnson - March 05, 2015 at 05:55 AM

TD

“ Oh my, sure miss this lady at work. We worked together for many years, and she is definitely missed at the GW Co Hospital. My thoughts and prayers go out to all her family. She always had a smile on her face and would help anyone out if they needed it.

Tami Decker

Tami Decker - March 05, 2015 at 05:29 AM

MD

“ I had the privilege of working with Joann at GWCH and miss her beautiful smile everyday. She was always so compassionate about everything she did in life. RIP my dear friend.



marian Drake - March 04, 2015 at 09:20 PM

JB

“ 4 files added to the album *New Album Name*



judi berdis - March 01, 2015 at 11:09 AM

JB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



judi berdis - February 27, 2015 at 05:08 PM

AR

“ *I did not know JoAnn, but I know her two daughters. From knowing the girls I can just imagine what FUN it must have been to have JoAnn for a mother. She did a great job of raising two wonderful daughters. I know she will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her and loved her. May her Memory and the the Love she gave bring comfort and peace.*

April Rhoades



April Rhoades - February 26, 2015 at 06:43 PM



I worked with Joan for years at Greenwood County Hospital. She was a very wonderful derium person always there for everyone when they needed someone to talk to. My condolences go out to the family of this lovely lady. God bless you all. Janice Escareno

Janice Escareno - March 05, 2015 at 01:12 PM