



Joan Irene McHugh

February 4, 1941 - December 17, 2020

Joan Irene McHugh, 79, of Dale City, Virginia passed away peacefully at her new home in Mineral, Virginia on December 17, 2020 with her loving husband by her side.

Joan was born to the late Joseph and Emma Markovich on February 4, 1941, in West Hazleton, Pennsylvania. She was a proud graduate of West Hazleton High School in 1958 and an even prouder graduate of the Hazleton State Hospital School of Nursing in 1961.

Joan is survived by her husband Bernard McHugh, her high school sweetheart who she married June 30, 1962. They enjoyed a storybook love affair for the next 58 years. These years included 23 years of Joan sacrificing for her country and family as the wife of an Army officer and a mother of two small children during her husband's two tours in Vietnam and over 12 moves. Unflappable, Joan raised those children and is survived by both Laurie Kane of Mineral, Virginia, and Brian McHugh of Nolanville, Texas. She is also survived by four adoring grandchildren ranging in ages from 18 to 25.

Joan was a selfless person with an intense calling to help others. A calling she realized over her quarter of a century working as an accomplished registered nurse. A job where she demonstrated that, no matter what the task; be it serving as an OR nurse, as a caregiver in a nursing home, or working in a private practice, Joan was willing to give everything to bring comfort to others. With all of this, Joan was happiest being a wife and mother who brought nothing but joy and love to her family and she leaves behind nothing but beautiful memories.

In her passing, as in all things, Joan did not want a big fuss made over her. In accordance with her desires, Joan will have a private Catholic Mass with only her immediate family. Her Urn will be kept with her beloved soulmate Bernard at their home on the fireplace hearth watching over "...my best friend, my support, and, best of all, my love". The family requests in lieu of flowers, any donations be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or a mass be said in her memory at St. Jude's Catholic Church in Mineral, Virginia.

Comments



“ Dear Bernie, Laurie and Brian,

It is with a heavy heart that all the memories of Joni have flooded me. We lived next door to you for a short 2 years at Yuma Proving Ground YPG. And what a bond we shared! Then in Dale City for 8 more years, we watched our children grow. And yes, the Halloween parties that you so famously orchestrated - at YPG with Bernie as Frankenstein and you the corpse in white, then in Dale City gathering Laurie, Brian, Peter and "Ducky" along with the Morris's in the cast! What a special friend I had! And a special hand written (not form letter) Christmas card we received from you every year! And when Brian and our "Ducky" were in the Gulf War, your lighting a candle, before your beautiful Blessed Mother statue on your refrigerator, for them each day brought me a comfort you never knew. Even though the years have flown by and we each sought new friends and activities, you will always be one of my "favorites". We have loved you always and will continue to cherish your memory.

Eileen & Pete Luther

Pete Luther - February 02 at 11:04 AM



“ It is hard to imagine a world without Joni's smile! During the three years that we were neighbors at Yuma Proving Ground, I thought of Joni as my "big sister" and mentor. She taught me so many invaluable lessons about being an Army wife. She also epitomized a loving and giving friend, always opening her home for delicious meals, fun parties (who can forget the Halloween spook house?!), or a listening ear. We were blessed to live near Bernie and Joni twice more over the years when our Army life found us in Northern Virginia. I have so many fond memories of those times and of the last time we saw Joni and Bernie at a YPG reunion in 2011. Of course the weekend event included dinner at their lovely home! She will be missed by many but will live on in their hearts and memories as she will in mine. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bernie, Laurie, Brian and the beloved grandchildren.

Connie & John Morris - February 01 at 09:38 AM



“ Dear Bernie and family,
We are so saddened to hear of the passing of your wonderful wife, Mother, Grandmother!
Our memories of Joanie and Bernie were all wonderful and pleasant as we all shared our lives at "Yuma Proving Grounds", outside "Yuma AZ", back in the '70's!

Joanie was uplifting to be around with her constant smile and caring attitude! Always gracious and willing to assist. I treasure the memories I have of her and am so grateful for the "YPG 'Reunion'", years later here in Virginia! It was so nice to spend one of the evenings in the McHugh home and have time to remember "yesteryears". For most of us, this was our last time to see each other, but what pleasant memories!

Thank you, Joanie. We love you.

Celia and Max Bunyard

Celia Bunyard - January 31 at 06:47 PM



“ I am heartbroken at the loss of my dear friend of over 57 years. We met in Germany in 1963 during our husbands' tour of duty. We had much in common because we were the only northerners in our group and were both pregnant with our due date days apart. We were so close then and remained close over the years albeit by letter and phone in recent years. Joni was among the most caring, loving and kindest person I have ever known. My memories of her will remain with me forever.

I love you and miss you Joni. It was a privilege to have known you. May you rest in peace.

My condolences to Butchie, Laurie and Brian on your tremendous loss.
Love, Rita Weissman

Rita Weissman - January 18 at 12:00 AM



“ I am so sad at the loss of one of my dearest friends. Joni and I met in our international sorority 43 years ago. Everyone in our group loved Joni. She was so kind and giving to everyone. We all looked forward to a meeting or party get together at Joni's; especially at Christmas! Joni was always there for anyone who needed help; especially her lighting a candle and praying for you. If she prayed for, you knew the prayer would be answered. During my husbands illness, she was there every week with her prayers and mass cards. Joni and I enjoyed many dinners and lunches together and would talk for hours! She always spoke about her children and grandchildren and how much she loved them and was so proud of them. During her illness, she always spoke about how much she loved Butchie and how wonderful he was to her. When she couldn't go out anymore,we still kept in constant touch with cards and letters. I am so blessed to have had her in my life. I will miss her forever. God Bless you Joni. I love you. Margaret

Margaret Rice - January 11 at 11:46 AM