



Judith Marie Connor

August 20, 1939 - March 10, 2020

Judith (Judy) Marie (Graessle) Connor, 80, of Jefferson City passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at Heisinger Bluffs in Jefferson City. She was born August 20, 1939, and raised in Jefferson City, Missouri, the only child of Henry Oscar John Graessle and Margaret Esther (Kohlman) Graessle.

She graduated in 1957 from Helias High School, a member of its inaugural class. She was a stellar student, and two of her fondest memories were being a part of the yearbook staff and performing in the senior play, "Meet Me in St Louis." Following graduation, she proudly worked at Central Missouri Trust Company from 1957 to 1963.

She was united in marriage on October 13, 1962, in the Cathedral of St. Peter, Jefferson City, to Donald Lee Connor. Soon after marriage, they started a family and were blessed with four sons and one daughter.

Judy was dedicated to creating and nurturing a love of learning, specifically reading. With that passion, she served as volunteer Head Librarian of St. Joseph Cathedral School. Faithfully, she prepared Sunday family meals and birthday dinners, even into her children's and grandchildren's adulthood. Judy was a proud Cub Scout den mother for several years. She didn't dote on her kids, but they were very important to her and she never allowed anyone to keep her from doing what was best for them. Whatever was of interest to her kids was very important to her. She did dote on her grandchildren, though, and they brought her an abundance of joy.

Undeniably, she had a passion for music. She was a member of St. Joseph Cathedral and sang as a soprano in the Cathedral Choir for over 40 years. She also loved the theater, and she and Don had season tickets to the Little Theatre and Jefferson City Symphony. Specifically, she enjoyed classical music, which she had playing on the radio every day the kids came home from school. In the words of her family: "One of my most vivid childhood memories is sitting at Mom's little desk (in the southwest corner of the front room) doing homework after school. She always had KBIA playing. ALWAYS!"

Judy liked to sew, knit, quilt and do handwork (crewel and counted cross stitch). She wasn't just good at those things, she excelled at them. She was an avid gardener and kept beautiful gardens in her back yard. Her front yard looked as though it was professionally landscaped and it was--by Judy. She also grew vegetables and liked to can them and put up jellies. Because she wanted to spend some quality time with her close friends, she and a friend formed a craft group which they ultimately called Kindred Spirits. This group of sweet friends met every other Tuesday during the school year for almost 40 years.

Possessing a desire to travel, she and Don went on trips across the United States. Two of their favorite trips were to Ireland and Canada. The family went yearly to Studebaker Driver's Club conventions to enjoy the boys' and Don's love of Studebakers. She also made sure their daughter never missed a tennis match. Judy and Don took the family to Silver Dollar City in Branson, Missouri every fall during the Craft Festival and this became an annual event. Judy loved crafts. She had a very discerning eye and collected many lovely items--paintings, hand carved wooden spoons, and pottery items.

Quoting a line from one of Judy's favorite poems titled "A Mother's Prayer" by Ruth Simrall Mackoy:

"Keep my children close to me, O Lord, though miles may separate us.
And let thy light so shine upon me that they, too, will see thy glory."

Judy is survived by four sons: Bruce (Charlene) Connor of Jefferson City, Brian (Mary Warburton) Connor of Glendale, Missouri, Matt (Gina) Connor of Jefferson City, and Steve Connor of Jefferson City; one daughter: Susan (Jerry) Johannes of Double Oak, Texas; 11 grandchildren: Emily (Brian) Conley, Erin Hatcher (Jon) Finnell, Jade Connor, Ian Connor, Indyanna Connor, Delaney Connor, Sean Connor, Celia Johannes, Adia Johannes, Georgia Johannes, and Amelia Johannes; 2 great-grandchildren: Beau Conley and Franklin Hatcher Finnell. She was preceded in death by her husband, Don Connor, and one grandson, Mark Hatcher.

Family will receive friends from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at Cathedral of St. Joseph. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at Cathedral of St. Joseph, with Fr. Louis Nelen officiating. Entombment will follow at Resurrection Catholic Cemetery in Jefferson City. Expressions of sympathy may be made to KBIA Radio Station and Hospice Compassus – Central Missouri.

Arrangements are under the direction of HOUSER-MILLARD Funeral Directors, 2613

West Main Street; Jefferson City, MO 65109. (573) 636-3838. Condolences may be left for the family online at www.millardfamilychapels.com

Cemetery

Resurrection Catholic Cemetery

3015 West Truman Boulevard
Jefferson City, MO, 65109

Events

MAR **Visitation** 09:00AM - 10:00AM

17

Cathedral of St. Joseph

2305 West Main Street, Jefferson City, MO, US,
65109

MAR **Mass of Christian Burial** 10:00AM

17

Cathedral of St. Joseph

2305 West Main Street, Jefferson City, MO, US,
65109

Comments



“ I'm very sorry for your loss. Prayers to all family members.

Joyce (Bemboom) Whittle - March 21 at 12:27 AM



“ I'm very sorry for your family's loss. Judy was a kind and caring lady. She leaves a great legacy.

Meredith Curry - March 16 at 10:49 PM



“ The Parker family sends our deepest condolences to the Connor family. Gene and I regret that we are unable to attend services due to the current situation with Covid-19.

A wonderful person and friend, Judy will be missed. After years of gatherings with Kindred Spirits sewing and craft group (Affectionately called stitch and snitch by my family), I thought I knew her well. Then I read the beautiful obituary and learned even more.

Lorraine Parker - March 16 at 10:06 PM



“ Judy continued to enjoy music when at Heisingers Unity Park. She certainly brightened the day of the Gonder Band members when we sang and played. Julie

Julie Hall - March 17 at 12:48 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers.

Danette Schulte - March 16 at 11:48 AM



“ I wish to send my deepest sympathy to Judy's family on her passing. She and Don were a big part of Pat's and my life for many years during our early marriage. I can truthfully say I never saw her without a smile. She was truly loved.

I will not be able to attend the funeral but I will pray for her. I know she's in heaven now. It's gonna be nice to have her there with all her old friends that have passed. Godspeed. Elaine Healey.

Elaine Healey - March 15 at 03:53 PM



“ Connor family please accept my sympathy on the passing of your mother and grandmother Judy. I will not be able to make it to visitation or mass. Working with you dad Don for 20 years plus I got to know your family well. Both of them were so proud of their family. I enjoyed looking at the pictures that Susan posted. Brought back a lot of memories. May Don and Judy Rest In Peace.



cris Henley - March 15 at 02:09 PM



“ 242 files added to the album Judy



Susan Johannes - March 14 at 09:59 AM



“ 242 files added to the album Judy



Susan Johannes - March 14 at 09:57 AM



“ I have so many memories of Judy. She was like a family member even though we weren't related. We were always welcome at her house even without notice. I remember she had beloved Storybook Dolls from her childhood that she kept in her closet. When I was very young and at her house, she would get those dolls out for me while Susan was napping. She didn't tell me to be careful with them because she trusted me but I was always very careful with them (I was probably 5 or 6 years old). She didn't even stay in the room and keep an eye on me, she just let me play with them trusting that I would be careful. She let us be in her home as if it was our own

home and never made us feel as though we were in the way. I loved my time with the Connor Family growing up and will always be grateful to our parents for all the wonderful traditions! I will miss her terribly but I am so glad she was a part of my life!

Michelle Skerik - March 13 at 08:32 PM



“ Mrs. Connor was my Cub Scout Den leader, for 5 years. She kept as busy as she could, and always gave us time to be boys. She also offered me the opportunity to understand that not everyone learns the same. Sophomore year of High School, my Algebra II teacher was moving faster than I could keep up with. My first mid quarter grades were awful. She suggested that I visit with Br. James. Brother James got me through that, and I think I ended up with an A by the end of the semester. I wouldn't have thought of that piton with her suggestion. As I have grown and added my own family, she was always interested in what was going on in my life. I'll miss keeping her updated. I asked for her advice when I became my sons Cub Scout leader. She said, do your best, but let the boys be boys. Praying for her and her family.
Denis P Gladbach

Denis Gladbach - March 13 at 02:30 PM



“ Judy and I met as girl scouts in grade school at McClung Park at a camp where her mother, Mrs. Graessle, was girl scout leader. Our friendship continued into high school where we enjoyed many activities together. After graduating from Helias High School in the first Class of 1957 we, with three other friends, took wonderful trips to Daytona Beach, FL swimming in the ocean and to a dude ranch in Colorado Springs, CO horseback riding in the garden of the gods - trips that will be remembered always. Later on Judy was a bridesmaid in Dick Groner and my wedding in 1962. Over the years we have celebrated births of babies, birthdays and anniversaries with Don and Judy. We enjoyed friendships with our sewing group, Kindred Spirits, into the present day. What a great friend Judy was! Truly a gift! My son, Rev. Eric Groner of St. Rita's Church, Fort Worth, TX will offer Masses for her. She will be in my prayers. My sympathies go to her daughter and sons at this sad time. Sincerely,
Joann Thrash Groner

Joann Groner - March 12 at 09:36 PM