



Joan Wigen

May 10, 1950 - April 9, 2008

Joan E. Wigen, 57, Bismarck, wife of Bob Kallberg, died April 9, 2008, after a heroic 12-year battle with cancer, at her home with Bob and her beloved Siamese cats by her side. Services will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, April 14, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Bismarck. Burial will follow with a private commitment at Sunset Memorial Gardens, Bismarck, where she will be buried next to her beloved father, J.O. "Bud" Wigen. Visitation will be held at Parkway Funeral Service, 2330 Tyler Parkway, Bismarck, on Sunday, April 13, from 6:00 - 9:00 PM and will continue one hour prior to the service at the church. Joan was born on May 10, 1950, in Fargo, and was adopted that year by Bud and Phyliss Wigen. She grew up in Hettinger and Bismarck, attended schools in Bismarck, and graduated from Bismarck High School. She graduated from Bismarck State College in 1970 and from North Dakota State University, Fargo, in 1972 with a BA degree in Education. Up until February 29, 2008, Joanie was working for the Hoeven Committee in Bismarck, where she had been employed since 2002. She had worked on Governor Hoeven's 2000 campaign, and then went to work with the Tourism Division of the Department of Commerce for just over a year before returning to the political arena. Prior to that, she had been Director of the Schafer Volunteer Committee for Governor Ed Shafer from November 1993 to December 1999. Other jobs she held over her lifetime included Assistant Director at Missouri Slope Areawide United Way, Consultant with the North Dakota Public Employees Association, Associate Director, Auxiliary Services, Bismarck Junior College, Assistant

Manager, Town House Motor Inn, Bismarck, and Senior Program Director at Missouri Valley Family YMCA. Joanie was always involved in her community, and the list of her activities includes the following, Trinity Lutheran Church: Board of Deacons 1978-81, Trust Committee, 1993-96, Church Council 1997 and 1998, and the Facility Planning Task Force 1999 serving as chairman in 2000; Capitol Grounds Planning Commission 2001; Planning Committee, Midwest Governors Conference; Board of Directors, Big Brother Big Sister Program, 1995-97; Mountain Plains Youth Services/Youthworks, Board of Directors, 1997-2000; Sakakawea Girl Scout Council; Bismarck-Mandan Directors of Volunteer Services, 1988-1991; North Dakota "Party of the Century" co-chairman busing and information booths; and a member of the Missouri Valley Family YMCA Y's Men's Club, serving as its president 1981-1982. Joanie was also a member past and present of the following: P.E.O. Sisterhood, Kappa Alpha Theta Social Sorority, Bismarck Elks Lodge, North Dakota State University Alumni Association, and Bismarck State College National Alumni Association. Joanie will be long remembered by those familiar with her 12-year long battle with cancer as someone who exhibited great courage, an incredible attitude, and an indomitable spirit and while she slipped away peacefully, she fought well and did not go quietly in to that good night. She is survived by her husband, Bob Kallberg; her step-son, Ryan Kallberg and his wife, Kim Randall; her grandson, Declan Kallberg, all of Los Angeles, CA; her sister, Ann Chase, Bismarck; her brother, Richard Wigen and his partner Fritz Lichty, San Francisco; her sister, Virginia Stringer, and brother-in-law, Ed Stringer, St. Paul, MN; her uncle, Richard Vevle, and aunt, Karla Vevle, Birmingham, AL; niece, Jesse Chase, Bismarck; great-niece, Talihna Chase; great-nephew, Jaxson Chase, Bismarck; nieces, Rosa Chicaiza and Patricia Chuquin, San Francisco; numerous Wigen and Vevle cousins; her two Siamese cats, Brandy and Bailey; and the Ya-Ya Sisters and all of her other many friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, J O "Bud" and Phyliss Wigen; her natural mother, Betty Scott, Grand Forks; and aunt, Del Piper, Menlo Park, CA. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the

University of Minnesota Women's Health Fund, Minnesota Medical Foundation, PO Box 64001, St. Paul, MN 55164-000 or Trinity Lutheran Church Building Fund, 502 N. 4th Street, Bismarck, ND 58501.

Tribute Wall

JC

“ I usually dealt with Joanie on the phone and she always had a smile in her voice. What a wonderful woman. This is so sad.

Janell Cole - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ Bob & family, We will always remember Joan and her smiling face when we all worked at BSC together. Joan was a genuine friend even though we did not see each other often. She introduced us and we will always be thankful for her "matchmaking". We will miss her friendship.

Carla & Dick Bickert - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Our whole family was sad to hear of the passing of Joan. She was a friend and sorority sister of mine at North Dakota State University. She also lived for a time with my parents and sisters in Fargo during her final year at NDSU. My mother called her "her sixth daughter". She was also a member of my wedding party. Although we lost touch over the last 35 years she was remembered fondly by myself and my family. Please accept our condolences, she was a fine person. Karen Blum Diane Haugen Nancy Hofstrand Janet Ward Tracy Stenhjem and Hazel Stenhjem

Diane Stenhjem Haugen - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ Dick and Ann I am so sorry to hear of Joan's death, She has been in my prayers and your family is too. She was a wonderful and accomplished woman and she will be missed. Love, Lynn PS: My brother, Kc, tried to get the funeral but says he couldn't even get near the church!

Lynn Clayson Gifford - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Ann, Bob, Dick, Jesse and family, The last time I saw Joanie was on my trip back to Bismarck during this past Christmas vacation. We had a hug, a short chuckle over one of "Ann and Cheryl's Great Life Adventures" tales and a promise to not lose track of old friends. What a blessed gift that random brief conversation was for both of us. Joanie was one of the kindest women I knew with a great capacity for giving unconditional love and friendship to so many. Her valiant battle is over and heaven now has a new voice in the choir. In Peace and Friendship, Cheryl Monson

Cheryl Moe-Monson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NM

“ Joanie will be so missed by all who knew her. She had a special spirit -- kind, fun, loving, giving. She was a caring friend, and someone you enjoyed being with. I will miss you, Joanie! Bob, you are in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Naomi, Paul, Andrew and Hannah Andrew still sleeps with the little, white teddy bear Joanie gave him when he was almost one year old. He's three now.

Naomi Myrdal - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ With Deep Sympathy

Clare Aubol - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

VO

“Joanie, you has left a handprint on all our hearts as you did with everyone you met. We will celebrate how fortunate we were to be touched by your smile and spirit. Aunt Joanie, I will miss making you laugh. Uncle Bob, Words, however kind, can't mend your heartache: But those who care and share your loss wish you comfort and peace of mind. We love you.

Vicki Osland - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BO

“Joanie left a legacy of courage, faith, strength, and love for all of us who knew and loved her. She was more than a friend to our family. She loved our kids as they loved her. I know that she will never be forgotten by us and we know we will see her again someday! If God's message of "Well done good and faithful servant" is for the best of the best, then Joanie heard these words on Wed. We love you Bob.

Barb Olson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ME

“I can't think of anyone in the world who brought a bigger smile to my face than Joanie. She worked with my mom at the Republican Headquarters and I got to know her very well. I remember always getting excited to go to my mom's office because, "Joanie's going to be there!" I will always remember Joanie for her bright smile, bubbly personality, and passion for what she did.

Megan - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LK

“I am very sorry to hear of Joanie's passing. She certainly left a mark on my life with her smile, wisdom, encouragement, and most of all, kindness. She will truly be missed by so many.

Lynelle Kraft - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DL

“*Joanie, I will be forever grateful to you for the wisdom and knowledge that you have passed along to me. Your strength in the face of adversity was second to none, and your cheer brightened many a stressful day. Thank you for being a part of our lives.*

Don Larson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JM

“*I was so sorry to hear of Joan's passing. She was a wonderful lady. I first met her back in 1978 when she was directing workers installing a horseshoe court at the Burleigh County Senior Center. She was a joy to run into and always had a smile and a good word. God bless her.*

Jack Minton - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

VH

“*Dear Dick and all: I just happened to click into this site to check on Dad's info, and was shocked to see Joanie's name. I remember Grandma and Grandpa Wigen in Hettinger --- we were neighbors. And Grandpa made mice from his white handkerchief:::we loved that. Naturally when you visited them we met and were playmates. We had a swing set and a sandbox and loved sharing it with you! We considered Joan and you as our friends! And then we had the extra joy of moving to Bismarck, and seeing you again. We had a puppy, Lucky, which we could not keep because the parsonage had no yard. We were thrilled that Lucky found a good home with you guys...and we could visit. These years I've visited with Joan at Trinity and renewed our friendship. So proud of her strength, and so sorry that she's gone. May God bless all of you as you adjust to this.....and may you praise God that he has healed Joan and that she is with Himyou will be reunited. To God be the Glory! Love, Vicki*

Victoria Lutness Halvorson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ Over the past few years, my family has gotten really close to Joanie through my mom and working at the Republican Headquarters. I will never forget the memories of filling boxes and boxes of tootsie rolls for parades, swimming in her pool, taking jolly ranchers from her desk at her office, and so much more. It just always made my day to see Joanie. She has such a wonderful and fun personality. But most of all, Joanie taught me about courage and to make the best out of your life no matter what circumstances occur. Joanie will always be remembered.

Sara - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BJ

“ We were sad to hear that Joan is gone. We were so sorry that she wasn't well enough to attend our "cousin" reunions. The last time we talked was at my parents' home in Bemidji. She certainly was brave facing so many years with cancer. With love and sympathy to your family. Barb and Don Johnson

Barb and Don Johnson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

VH

“ I guess this is mostly for Ann and Dick - sorry to hear of your sisters passing - thinking of you all brought back many good OLD memories! Mom is still in Highland Acres -although winters in AZ. I will let her know - your family is in our prayers - God Bless Vicki

Vicki Ongstad Harper - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RH

“Joan was an advisor, friend and confidant during my two years of attending Bismarck Junior College in the early 80s. She was so much fun to be around and a wonderful mentor. I was very saddened when I read that she had passed. I will always remember her wonderful smile.

Rosemary Higgins - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SJ

“We feel so blessed to have had Joanie in our lives for so many years. I was her "Big Sis" as a Theta and we both regarded that relationship as a true connection. Whenever we met in Bismarck it was as though we hadn't passed through a lifetime of happenings. I have learned from her early departing that we cannot wait until "the kids leave...we retire..." and all the other excuses we make for not seeing each other more often. I will miss Joan so much... especially her smile that lit up a room... Sue Jackson

Sue and Gene Jackson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BC

“I will always remember Joanie's smile, laugh, twinkle in her eye, strength and republican spirit. She will be greatly missed by so many friends and family.

Beth Christmann - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TF

“Joanie was an inspiration to all of us. Surely everyone who knew her feels the loss of her passing. But equally sure are the special memories of Joanie that each of us hold. Joanie was an amazing woman. She was incredibly courageous, a person of indomitable spirit. Who could be anything but inspired by the unceasingly positive attitude that Joanie demonstrated whatever the circumstances. She touched so many lives, and was such a positive influence on so many. Our hearts are heavy, and our thoughts and prayers go out to Bob and the other members of Joanie's family at this time of loss. Tom and Anne Forsythe

Tom and Anne Forsythe - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CS

“My deepest sympathies to Joan's family. We were sorority sisters at NDSU. Joan was in my sisters, Kyle's, pledge class. I remember fondly her big smile and laugh. She fought a long battle and now rests in God's hands. You are in my thoughts and prayers, Caryn

Caryn Skjerven - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RL

“There are many reasons why I enjoyed attending Trinity Lutheran, beyond spiritual. One was the people, and a person who shined at Trinity was Joanie. Joanie always had friendly words plus a friendly smile for you. Joanie, I will miss you.

Rob Lein - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KL

“ To Joan's family: When I was a new Bismarck High student who had just moved from Grand Forks, Joan was one of the first people I met at school. We had so many wonderful times together, church, prom decorating, parade floats to make, The Big Boy pizza burgers to eat, cherry cokes to drink, etc. Her energy, friendliness and laugh made it easy to call her my friend. She lived close to me in Highland Acres and we had GREAT fun driving in her blue Volkswagon bug with the top down. She always had a smile on her face. Several times when I returned to Bismarck, we would still meet and she would update me on "all the news". She WAS remarkable!! My thoughts and prayers are with her family. Sincerely, Kathy Ellis Linstrom Lafayette, Colorado Bismarck High School Friend

Katherine Ellis Linstrom - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Joanie was one of the sweetest and best people I have ever had the pleasure of meeting or working with. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and her friends who I know will all miss her dearly. God bless you Joanie. I know you are now finally at peace.

Mike & Corissa Schnell - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ I first met Joanie at Bismarck State College when I was a student. She was always this happy, energetic woman who I thought really had it together. She made an impression. Our paths next crossed when I joined chapter AJ PEO. I was pleasantly surprised to see Joanie was a member. I noticed again her smile - her whole face would light up when she smiled. We got to work together a bit more on then Gov. Schafer's inaugural ball. I saw her passion. This woman is dedicated to making a difference in North Dakota, I thought. Joan came to work at Commerce for the Tourism Division. It seemed she was always about improving the environment for co-workers or finding a better way to get work accomplished. The Wigen's party at Peacock. My mom, Suzie, sister-in-law Colleen and I all found the wildest wigs we owned and marched right into Peacock Alley. It was SO good to see Joanie that day and to honor her courage and perseverance. I have a wonderful picture in my mind of Joanie with a big smile on her face and her dark curly hair atop. It has been a privilege to know Joan Wigen. Thank you.

Tracy Finneman - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Our sympathies and love to the family of Joan Wigen. She was a warm and wonderful lady and will be missed by all her friends and family. May God keep you in His care. Love, Jane and family

Jane Gunter - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM