



## Janice M. Matko

February 25, 1953 - April 19, 2020

Janice Marie Matko, 67, departed this world for her place in Heaven on April 19, 2020 from her home in Strongsville, OH after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Known to many of us as Jannie, she was born in Euclid, OH on February 25, 1953 to Rudolph and Mary (Jalovec) Matko. Her parents and brother Allan preceded her in death. She is survived by her sister-in-law Pat (Petrovic) Matko; brother Dennis and his wife, Pamela Downing; niece, Deanna (Matko) Weber and her children Marcus, Maxwell, Maya and Mitchell; nephew Mark Matko, his wife, Janice (Tucholski) and their sons Tyler and Kyle; nephew Dr. Matthew Matko, Seattle WA; nephew Michael Matko, currently in South East Asia; Dr. Andrew Matko and wife Karin (Danklefsen), and their sons, Mason and Brady; her devoted best friend of 60 years, Debbie (Rash) Zeleznak; and numerous cousins, their offspring and many friends.

Janice was a 1971 graduate of Euclid High School and a proud alumna of The Ohio State University, where she excelled academically on the way to earning her BSN. The conferring of her nursing degree formally marked the beginning of her life-long passion of helping and caring for others. Professionally, Janice worked more than thirty years at Cleveland Metro Hospital, practicing as a floor nurse, in Recovery Room, and Endoscopy. Her commitment to selflessly helping others was reflected in the way she lived her personal life. She performed countless acts of compassion and kindness for friends, family and neighbors. During their last years, Janice lovingly served as the principal caregiver for both of her parents. Her love for her family is evident in the special relationships she nurtured with her niece, nephews and their children.

Janice was also a devoted member of the Roman Catholic Church. She grew up as member of St. Christine parish in Euclid. She spent many of her middle years as a member of St. Gabriel parish in Painesville Twp., and cherished her time as part of their exceptional choir. For the last several years, Janice has been a member of St. John Neumann parish in Strongsville.

While these voluntary commitments meant sacrificing some of her personal dreams, Janice had a love for travel that she was fortunate to satisfy, especially in her last years. Often in concert with her dear friends, David and Judy Arlow, or with her best friend, Debbie Zeleznak, Janice had many wonderful adventures in the USA and abroad,

including a beautiful trip to her ancestral lands of Slovenia.

Janice will be remembered as a kind and gentle woman, who in her own genuine way made the world a brighter place. We will miss her for the wonderful laugh and generous spirit that she shared without reservation, and Heaven will welcome her as its newest Angel.

The family would like to recognize the compassion, support and loving care of Janice's caregivers at Hospice of the Western Reserve.

Private family services will be held with interment in All Souls Cemetery in Chardon, OH.

As a result of the ongoing and ever-developing Covid 19 health crisis in the world and our community, and with genuine concern for the people whom they love, Janice's family will host a celebration of her life with family and friends once life returns to calmer and healthier times when we will be able to gather without boundaries to honor, remember and commemorate Janice's life.

Donations in honor of Janice may be made to the The Gathering Place (<https://www.touchedbycancer.org/>). The Gathering Place, which is funded by donations, offers free programs and services addressing the emotional, physical, spiritual and social needs of individuals and families coping with the impact of cancer in their lives.

# Comments

---



“ I worked with Jan in Endoscopy. I remember her fondly for her compassionate care she gave to her patients.  
Diane Miller

**Diane Miller** - April 26, 2020 at 01:50 PM

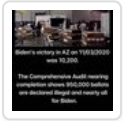
---



“ I worked with Jan at Metro in the Endoscopy unit. She was a kind, caring person and a hard worker. I enjoyed working with her and she was always fair. Her laugh was contagious. My condolences to her family and friends.  
Carol Hollows

**Carol Hollows** - April 23, 2020 at 08:10 PM

---



“ I worked with Jan at Metro in Endoscopy. She was a caring fun person to work with. The world lost one of the good ones.

**Sarah Williams** - April 22, 2020 at 12:30 PM

---



“ I met Janice when we were in the seventh grade at Shore Jr. High and I feel so blessed to have remained friends all these years since. We didn't get to see each other as often as we would have liked but whether it was a phone call, a Christmas card, a lunch or dinner out we were always able to catch up like no time had passed. She had such a beautiful smile and I loved it when I could make her laugh! What we have lost with her passing is Heaven's gain and the stars are shining brighter because she's up there now. Rest in peace my dear friend. My deepest sympathy to her family.

Cathy Witt Busi

**Cathy Witt Busi** - April 21, 2020 at 08:43 PM

---



“ I met Janice in junior high and have fond memories of the days we were office runners together. After high school when I spent several years living on the West Coast, we stayed in touch by mail or phone. Even from afar, she was willing to lend an ear when needed. Aside from her kindness and desire to help, she was fun to be with. Her laugh was one of the best EVER! She will be missed by many. I am fortunate to have had her as a friend. My condolences to her family.

**Addie Crnko** - April 21, 2020 at 07:17 PM

---



“ Jan was my dear friend and coworker. She was part of our “Metro Group” that got together every couple of months for dinner and conversation for over 30 years. We shared our Christmas celebrations at one of our homes with tasty appetizers and a cookie exchange. Our last gathering was at her home and how proud she was of her home! As a cancer survivor Jan and I had many conversations about our journeys and about hope and prayer. My heart is broken! She was loved by my family. My condolences to Jan’s family.

**Mary Chrostowski** - April 21, 2020 at 12:12 PM

---



“ I knew Jan through St. Gabriel's Church choir and the Messiah Choir. I feel such sadness that she has died. Jan was a warm and caring woman. God bless you Jan and your family.

**Laura Corrigan** - April 21, 2020 at 09:46 AM

---



“ Jan was my mom's best friend. My mom named her my godmother when I was born. "Aunt" Jan was a really special person in my life, she was family. When I was a kid, we'd go to her parents house every year in Euclid to watch the fireworks. I have many special memories from those times. Even though Aunt Jan was my godmother - she was basically everyone's godmother. Of course she was, because she was the most selfless, caring, kind person who put everyone else before herself. Who wouldn't have wanted Jan as their godmother? Well, she's part of the stars now, twinkling in the night sky. She's now part of the wonders of the Universe and her spirit that we all loved and cherished for the person she was, is now watching over us all. My mom couldn't have chosen a better best friend. I couldn't have had a more special person in my life that watched over me and supported me, even when things got tough. I will always be looking out for you in the night sky, Aunt Jan. Please send me a sign. I will be listening.



**JenMarie Zeleznak** - April 20, 2020 at 08:29 PM

---



“ I worked with Jan for several years on a med-surg unit at metro. She was a blessing to her patients and co workers and she could be counted on in any situation. God bless this angel of mercy. My condolences to her family. Ruth Zimmerman

**Ruth Zimmerman** - April 20, 2020 at 01:04 PM

---



“ My heart has a big crack in it at the loss of our dear friend Jan. My condolences to the family as you grieve the loss. We have so many beautiful memories of fun times with Jan and over the years realized how alike we were. Jan invited me to the Gathering place where we took a series of cooking classes. It is a wonderful resource and a kind, loving place.



**Judy Arlow** - April 20, 2020 at 12:41 PM



“ I meet Jan in September of 1918 on one of her traveling adventures to the Canadian Rockies and immediately connected with her marvelous spirit. I was fortunate enough to meet her again in Cleveland, along with the Arlos, for a delightful afternoon at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. I am blessed to have know her. My condolences to her family, friends, and colleagues.

**Mary Marsh-King** - April 23, 2020 at 10:31 PM

---



“ I am so, so sorry for your loss. Somewhere I heard for everyone left behind, grieving, there are countless angels singing, "Welcome Home!" I like to envision this, not only as a comfort to myself, but as a reminder of a loving God, who has a place in His heart and Kingdom for all of His children. Memories of Debbie's wedding - "girl shopping" for bridesmaid dresses, and her wedding day itself - bring so many sweet and funny memories. And our trip to see the Beach Boys at Chautauqua, was a fun and funny day for Janice, Debbie, Jerry, and me - where somehow we got split up in seating - and Jerry and I ended up front row (thank you transport)...and spent so much time in line at ladie's room - we missed the courtesy bus. Long walk to front! Sorry this is so long.....Just not enough room to share how I will miss a sweet and special friend.

**Pat Jezior** - April 20, 2020 at 11:30 AM

---



“ Rest in peace.

**Mary Anne Kriesen** - April 20, 2020 at 11:29 AM

---



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Janice M. Matko.



April 20, 2020 at 11:08 AM