



Joan Olcott

February 28, 1929 - March 27, 2020

Joan Olcott, 91, died Friday, March 27th at IU Hospice after suffering a stroke. Joan was a loving daughter, sister, wife, mother, LLL and friend. Everyone who knew Joan loved her. She was generous and beautiful inside and out. Born in Lincoln, Kansas, she was the daughter of Alfred John William LeBien and Elfreida Magdeline Oppliger. As a child her family moved to Indianapolis, graduated from Shortridge High School and enrolled at Butler University. At Butler she joined Kappa Alpha Theta, met Lloyd W. Olcott and graduated with a B.A. in Education. She and Lloyd married in 1951, then Joan taught 8th grade while Lloyd was serving in the Korean War.

While raising three daughters, Joan was very active in the community. She served on a number of boards including Ivy Tech where she earned an honorary degree and the Bloomington Hospital Foundation. She also served as her daughters' Girl Scout Leader, was a life-long active member of groups including: Kappa Alpha Theta Alums, P.E.O., Psi Ota Xi and their Thrift Store, and Conversation Club.

A two-time breast cancer survivor, Joan gifted seed money for the Olcott Center, originally at Bloomington Hospital, specializing in treating and caring for women with cancer. For many years Joan helped kickoff the Hoosiers Outrun Cancer event by thanking participants from the stage. Joan also gifted major support to the Olcott Library at Ivy Tech and the Olcott Lounge at IU's Cook Hall. She and her late husband Lloyd were inducted into the Monroe County Sports Hall of Fame as Humanitarians for their generosity and love of

all people in Bloomington.

As demonstrated by her giving spirit, Joan's Christian faith was the focus of her life. She always said she was lucky to be born and raised in a Christian family. She was a founding member of Faith Lutheran Church (High Street). She taught Sunday School for decades and was a dedicated active member serving on countless committees throughout the years.

Joan and Lloyd were married for 50 years when he died in 2001. After mourning his death, Joan found her Late in Life Love (LLL) P.A. Mack. Joan and P.A. could be seen together attending every IU athletic, cultural, or fundraising event on campus. Joan's daughters often had a hard time reaching her on the phone because of her busy social schedule, right up until the last six months of her life.

Joan was preceded in death by her husband Lloyd. She is survived by two brothers: Harry LeBien (Mary Ellen) of Greenwich, CT and Robert LeBien of Bloomington. She is also survived by her three daughters: Jill Parker (Ken) of Centerville, OH; Nancy Friedrich (Jim) of Knoxville, TN; and Mary Sue Olcott (Maggie Cannon) of Greensboro, NC. Joan has five adult grandchildren, and three great granddaughters. She is also survived by her LLL of 18 years, P.A. Mack and his children Dr. Kathy (Dan) McDonald and Jonathan Mack.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date. A public celebration of her life will take place at a time when family and friends can gather safely.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory have been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences, photos, and memories may be shared with family and friends at www.allencares.com

Cemetery Details

Valhalla Memory Gardens

310 North Johnson Ave.
Bloomington, IN 47401

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

JB

“Joan was a loving, kind, generous heroine in our community! She rose to the top in every situation she participated in and there were so many! I knew her twice as a neighbor and forever a friend! Our city was so blessed to have her!!! JoAnn Beggs

JoAnn Beggs - April 15, 2020 at 08:40 AM

DE

“Dear Jill, Nancy and Mary Sue,

We extend to you and your families our sympathies upon the death of your mom. We have always admired her for her strength of character and her faith. We've been dear Christian friends of your family for over 50 years. Both Phil and Janet remember “Mrs. Olcott” as a favorite Sunday School teacher. We remember her church bank for birthday gifts that taught children to be thankful for His many blessings. When Phil had a near fatal car accident on his 18th birthday, your mom was one of his first visitors at the hospital.

For us, she has been our example of a Christian woman and has modeled for us how to grow old graciously. We will continue to be inspired by the actions she took and the things she said. We will miss her smiling face at church and at many other locations around Bloomington.

We, with you, claim God's promises that He will be with us and your Mom always.

Carol and Dave Ebeling

Dave & Carol Ebeling - April 03, 2020 at 11:10 AM

JR

“ So very sorry for your loss. She was a wonderful lady. We always enjoyed her stories when she came into the salon.
XOXO

Julie Roberts & Mischelle Barnett

Julie Roberts - April 01, 2020 at 01:28 PM

BS

“ To Joan's Family,

Joan was such a beautiful person. She had such pride and love for her family and her community. She was such a blessing to the Friends of Music, the Jacobs School of Music, to the Bloomington Hospital, and to community organizations she was a part of. We miss so terribly seeing her with P.A. at the I.U. basketball games. God will surely bless her and those whose lives she touched.



Bruce and Shannon Storm

Bruce & Shannon Storm - April 01, 2020 at 10:53 AM

JA

“Joan had such a great community spirit. She supported the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County along with all the other organizations listed.

Jim and I cherish especially our recollection of Joan and Lloyd in 1992, when we toured China with them in a Sister City group at the time when China was just opening up to visitors from the West. They were excellent companions during our "friendly talks" with government officials, our tours of schools, hospitals and factories and our shared attempts to divine the ingredients of our meals. Much later we enjoyed seeing her with P.A. Mack at so many signal occasions on the I.U. campus. We will miss her.

James and Tomilea Allison - March 31, 2020 at 02:09 PM

LH

“Joan Olcott and PA have been friends of our family for many years. We loved having them come to our summer lake house. Joan always brought a delicious treat, and we will never forget Joan's concern, mixed with her excellent sense of humor when PA swam across the little bay in front of our deck. Joan was one of my late mother's favorite friends, and for several years we were blessed to have Joan and PA join us for Easter dinner. Joan's gracious thank you notes were so warm and authentic that I kept several to serve as a model for how to write a thank-you note. She had the rare quality of making us all feel special, no matter the occasion. She was a wonderful gift to everyone she knew and will live on through her many contributions to the Bloomington community. We send our deepest condolences to her family.

Lesla and Jeff Huber

Lesla Huber - March 30, 2020 at 05:22 PM

GM

“ *Joan was my dearest and best friend for many years. I have written notes to several members of her family; so I will end this by saying how much I will miss her --she gave so much of herself to others and to the community-a life well-lived. My sympathy and love, Gerry Miller*

Gerry Miller - March 30, 2020 at 04:48 PM

KD

Dear Jill, Nancy and Mary Sue: Your parents served as baptismal sponsors for my brother, sister and I. I still remember being at your house in Bloomington and having fun. Even though my family moved a few times, your mother kept in touch with us through her letters. Joan kept in touch with me through her Christmas cards and letters. I always looked forward to receiving them and getting updates on how each of you were doing with your families. Planet Earth is a little dimmer now; however, heaven is so much brighter with her there!

Kim (Hildinger) Dringenburg - December 17, 2020 at 12:06 AM

GM

“ *To all the family, Joan was a wonderful person, so caring and friendly in person and so involved in the community. Her generosity to many organizations was legendary. I loved seeing her and Lloyd at events in my early years in Bloomington, and then seeing Joan and PA in recent years. She was an inspiration to so many of us.*

Glenda Murray

Glenda Murray - March 30, 2020 at 04:44 PM

NP

“*Joan Olcott was the most caring and beautiful person we ever met. About a month ago, she was sitting ahead of us in a church service, and she turned around to inquire about Norm's health. She was always thinking of others and putting herself last. We will miss her.*
Norm and Arllys Papke

Norm Papke - March 30, 2020 at 04:19 PM

SF

“*Don & I we're so saddened to read of Joan's death in the newspaper today. She made such a difference in so many peoples lives. But most importantly was her gift to be a friend to all with her sparkling eyes and wonderful smile.*

Sandra & Don Freund - March 30, 2020 at 03:25 PM

BS

“*Joan Olcott holds a special place in the heart of IU Health Bloomington Hospital and our entire South Central Region. We send sincere gratitude for her work on boards and committees to help continually improve our work, and her philanthropy to improve care for cancer patients, families, and caregivers in Southern Indiana. Her influence will live on. Our thoughts are with her family and friends.*

Brian Shockney, President South Central Region, and the entire IU Health Bloomington Hospital family

Brian Shockney - March 30, 2020 at 12:52 PM



“*My late husband, Bob, and I always enjoyed seeing and talking to Joan at IU events. Her generosity to healthcare, the arts and IU will live on in the hearts of Bloomingtonians...*
Pat Williams

Pat Williams - March 30, 2020 at 12:05 PM

CM

“ My husband and I moved to Bloomington in 2000 and not long after we met Joan at various IU women’s basketball games and events. Many times after that we would see her and PA around town and campus and she was always gracious . She was just a lovely person you wanted to know. How fortunate we all have been to have her in Bloomington. What a life well lived. Cheryl and David Moeller

Cheryl Moeller - March 30, 2020 at 09:46 AM

P(

“ I am so deeply sorry about the loss of Mrs. Olcott. She was an amazing lady and did so much for our community. To all family and friends... Thinking and praying for all of you. Especially to you, Mary Sue. ❤️

*With Sympathy,
Pilar Gunderson (Montecino)*

Pila Gunderson (Montecino) - March 30, 2020 at 09:09 AM



DM

“ Darby McCarty lit a candle in memory of Joan Olcott

Darby McCarty - March 29, 2020 at 09:22 PM



BM

“ *Brenda Mckain lit a candle in memory of Joan Olcott*



Brenda Mckain - March 29, 2020 at 08:31 PM

LS

“ *LAWRENCE COUNTY CANCER PATIENT SERVICESQ lit a candle in memory of Joan Olcott*



LAWRENCE COUNTY CANCER PATIENT SERVICESQ - March 29, 2020 at 04:46 PM

GB

“ *Olcott family,*

So sorry to hear of Joan's passing. She was such a sweet lady with the warmest and kindest eyes. I worked with Lloyd at Hoosier Outdoor and we were tennis pals as well. On rainout days we we often go to their home for table tennis and Joan was always gracious to some of us rambunctious types 😂, bringing refreshments and more repartee. The tennis group would also have get togethers during the Holidays and I remember her collection of churches all lit up which was very neat. We were at the soup bowl benefit in February and saw PA Mack but not Joan and I asked where she was and he said she wasn't feeling well 😞. I meant to check in with her but...

Again. our condolences,

Glenn & Rita Burkholder

Glenn & Rita Burkholder - March 29, 2020 at 04:20 PM

SB

“ *Joan had so many remarkable qualities, too many to list, but one I admired especially was her ability to remember names AND faces (no small accomplishment, as many of us know) and her penchant for making each person feel special when she engaged with you. She and PA were kind and attentive surrogate parents/grandparents to our Yeley clan, placing them securely as members of our village. We will miss Joan, but will remain deeply grateful for her friendship and the joy she gave us all. Sarah and Ken Barker*

sarah barker - March 29, 2020 at 01:21 PM

ES

“ While I didn't know Joan personally, I benefited from her selfless philanthropy through the Olcott Center. Having this incredible resource supported my, and many others, journey through cancer. Thank you, Joan.

Esther S - March 29, 2020 at 11:16 AM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Joan Olcott.



March 29, 2020 at 08:12 AM

JS

“ Joan Olcott was the epitome of grace and unconditional love. She will never be forgotten for her generosity and thoughtfulness as well as her great sense of humor. What a treasure to have known her. Much sympathy to her daughters and family. Her true joy in life was to have had three perfect daughters and their wonderful families.

jan sinn - March 28, 2020 at 09:21 PM

HC

“ I was looking forward to having Joan at Bell Trace. As a friend of many years, I will miss her and our lunches together with Barbara Heflin and Cyndi Nelson. Joan did so much good in this world, so she will be valued in the next!

Harriet (Tarry) Curry

Harriet Curry - March 28, 2020 at 03:54 PM

LS

“ *Lawrence County Cancer Patient Services lit
a candle in memory of Joan Olcott*



Lawrence County Cancer Patient Services - March 28, 2020 at 01:55 PM

“ I had the pleasure of working with Joan and the Olcott Center in my leadership role at the Bloomington Hospital Foundation from 2006 through 2013. Joan was a community treasure and inspiration. She was a joyful giver, supporting numerous community initiatives.

She was particularly supportive of the Hospital Foundation, founding the Olcott Center, a very unique support service for cancer patients and their families. She knew from her own personal experiences that cancer patients, and particularly important to her, breast cancer patients could benefit from ongoing support and education during their treatment.

Basically, Joan wanted future breast cancer survivors to benefit from items that were not available to her during her breast cancer experience . The Olcott Center has provided thousands of hours of individual counseling and educational sessions, thousands of wigs, prosthesis, and much more. During my involvement with the Olcott Center, the radiologist who would share a breast cancer diagnosis with a patient, generally already had made an appointment for the patient with the Olcott Center, often times within 24 hours of sharing the diagnosis. True to form, Joan personally volunteered at the center for many years.

Hoosiers Outrun Cancer, founded by two other important Bloomington volunteer treasures, Karen Knight and Dorothy Ellis, and staffed and coordinated by the Hospital Foundation (and very ably by the current Bloomington Health Foundation) to this day, became a primary ongoing funding source for the Olcott Center. Joan was always so proud to have a public role in the event, often joined by all her daughters, and always with Mr.Mack by her side.

This past year, as Hoosiers Outrun Cancer celebrated its 20th anniversary, I made a small gift in honor of Mrs. Olcott and several other pivotal volunteers. Within days I received a lovely handwritten note from Joan. I saved that note as a reminder of her, her generosity, her impeccable manners and graciousness. Joan was

one for the ages. God bless her and all those she leaves behind.

Sincerely, Chris Molloy

Christopher Molloy - March 28, 2020 at 01:27 PM

SB

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Susan Berkel - March 28, 2020 at 01:02 PM

AB

“ *The world lost one of the most generous, kind, and loving humans. She has done so much for our community. I have been blessed to know her through community work. She also has a special place in our hearts because we live in the house that she and Lloyd built in 1970. Heaven has a new angel who is certainly finding needs that to be met and making heaven an even more beautiful place. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone. We look forward the day when we can celebrate her life.*

Amanda Burnham

Amanda Burnham - March 28, 2020 at 11:47 AM

CS

“ WHAT A WONDERFUL LADY AND FRIEND. SHE ALWAYS HAD TIME TO STOP AND TALK AND ALWAYS HAD A BEAUTIFUL SMILE AND SPARKLE IN HER EYES. WE MET AT THE CONVENTION CENTER AND I WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO HELP HER PLAN THAT EVENT. SHE AND LOYD WERE BOTH HUGE SUPPORTERS OF THE CONVENTION CENTER. I WILL MISS SEEING HER OUT AND ABOUT.
CHARLENE SYKES

CHARLENE SYKES - March 28, 2020 at 11:46 AM



“ I am sad to hear of Joan’s passing. It was always a joy to see her around town and especially supporting the arts. I will miss her graceful personality and warm smile.



Heather Narducci - March 28, 2020 at 10:48 AM

WS

“ What sad news and what a loss to our community.

When I moved to Bloomington and became Director of the Indiana Memorial Union, I served with Lloyd on the Monroe County Convention and Visitors Bureau. Lloyd became my mentor on community service and through him, I met Joan. I can honestly say that I have never met a more compassionate, giving, friendly person. She will long be remembered for her support of the arts and health in our community - a true role model for all of us.

Winston Shindell

winston shindell - March 28, 2020 at 09:35 AM

LS

“ *Lawrence County Cancer Patient Services lit a candle in memory of Joan Olcott*



Lawrence County Cancer Patient Services - March 28, 2020 at 09:28 AM

BP

“ *Jill, Nancy, and Mary; God's peace and comfort during this difficult time. Your mom was a very special lady and a wonderful friend. We enjoyed sitting with her (and LLL PA) at many IU football games. Jill; I remember our VBS class at ULu, when mom was our teacher. I recall one very hot summer and we all sweated, but had fun. She will be missed. Love, Bill and Leslie Pfrommer*

Bill Pfrommer - March 28, 2020 at 07:55 AM

SR

“ To the family of Joan Olcott:

I am so sorry for your loss. You all do not know me and I've only met Joan once, but I will always be grateful for her generosity. In 2018, I was fortunate enough to be a recipient of the Joan Olcott Scholarship in Healthcare. I met Joan at a dinner honoring the recipients. What a kind, caring woman she was! Her gift lessened my financial burden greatly, and I will always be indebted to her benevolence. But as you grieve, just remember the legacy she leaves; through her philanthropic acts, she has allowed many healthcare students like myself to obtain their education, allowing us to enter the healthcare field and provide care to others. What a remarkable legacy!

Wishing you peace and healing,

*Stephanie Jacobs, BSN, RN
Ivy Tech Community College Bloomington
School of Nursing
Class of 2018*

Stephanie Jacobs, BSN, RN - March 28, 2020 at 01:06 AM

AD

“ *I've known Joan forever,(she delivered Jill the day before my mother had me at Bloomington Hospital). When I worked with her at the Hospital Foundation It was a joy. She was always so gracious, happy and generous while being extremely insightful and informed. She was a local Superhero, and a light for everyone she touched . I will miss her.*

Allen Dunn

Allen Dunn - March 27, 2020 at 11:05 PM

PZ

“ *A wonderful woman.*

Phillip Zook - March 27, 2020 at 10:45 PM

DS

“ *Joan was a very special person to me. Loved taking care of her at the IU soccer games. She would always thank me for taking care of her. She and PA were such awesome individuals whom I always looked forward to seeing. I will miss her dearly!*

David Smith - March 27, 2020 at 10:00 PM

SD

“ *As a young Hospital administrator I had no female role models until I found Cecelia Wahl, Jean Anderson, Mary Oliver and Joan Olcott. Joan is the last standard bearer of that generation with her grace, insight, kindness and class. She was a friend and mentor who supported others and gave us a model to support women in the future. I loved her.*

Sandy DeWeese - March 27, 2020 at 08:19 PM