



Joanne Crothers DeLone

April 8, 1929 - November 26, 2021

Joanne C. DeLone, 92, of Bloomington passed away peacefully on Friday, November 26th, 2021 at Hearthstone Health Campus with family by her side. She was born on April 8, 1929 in Chester, Pennsylvania, the daughter of William J. Crothers and Dorothy Beal Crothers.

Joanne was a beloved mother, grandmother, wife and friend. Bright, cheerful, strong, loving and independent she is remembered fondly by family and friends. Her grandchildren remember her trademark red lipstick and pearls, the insistence on proper grammar, her love of animals, and her lemon meringue pie. Of course her love for Maine was second only to her love of family.

She had a quick wit, and a way of focusing intently on whomever she was with, making them feel important and valued. She had curiosity about what was going on in the lives of her loved ones, always showing enthusiasm and support whether in teaching a grandchild manners, how to bake, or cheering one on at college track meets, a poodle by her side.

Joanne had a varied work life, starting her career as a perfusionist on the first artificial heart and lung machine developed at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia by Dr. John Heysham Gibbon. While raising her family, she volunteered for many years at the Well Baby Clinic in Bloomington. Other volunteer work included being a Cub Scout Den mother at St. Charles, a Little League score keeper, and President of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity mom's club. Her later years were spent at the IU Optometry School where she

finished her career as the clinic coordinator for the Binocular Vision and Pediatrics department.

Joanne is survived by her three children, Louis and wife Meredith, Peter and wife Mireya, and Sarah; four grandchildren Helene and husband Zach Hetrick, Maggie and husband Will Sackmann, Scott and Nicole; and great granddaughter Collins.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother William J Crothers Jr., and her beloved husband Dr. Richard Pierre "Pete" DeLone.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Little Deer Isle, Maine in May 2022.

Allen Funeral and Crematory 4155 South Old State Road 37 is handling the arrangements and online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at www.allencares.com

Tribute Wall

SP

“ I worked with Joanne at the School of Optometry. She always took a sincere interest in those she worked with. Her gentle ways and soft heart made her very special and a perfect match for her job working with children. I have many fond memories of our years together at the School of Optometry. My deepest sympathy, Sandi Pickel

Sandi Pickel - December 05, 2021 at 08:21 PM

MH

“ Joanne worked for 10 years as my "scribe" at the Well Baby Clinic in Bloomington. She was there every Thursday. She was there when I had my son Charlie and would "look after him" while I was doing the physicals and she was writing my comments. For many years she would call Charlie on his birthday like she did with her own family. There is NO ONE like her in my life. She will always be one of my favorite people who ever graced my life. LOVE YOU, MY FRIEND!!! Mary Jane Hall, ARNP

Mary Jane Hall - November 30, 2021 at 12:56 PM



“ I'm so sorry, Sarah. How many years did she help with camp? She's at rest now.



Nancy Lee - November 29, 2021 at 03:42 PM

JW

So sorry to hear Sarah.

janice warkentin - November 30, 2021 at 08:16 AM

TG

Dearest Joanne,

As my 3 dogs and I walked along our county road yesterday, the dogs spotted something in the woods—probably deer—and began barking and pulling me full force to reach their prey. Together they outweigh me by about 25 pounds; I pulled back hard on their leashes but couldn't stop them. Even moving from the pavement into the overgrown ditch didn't give me enough traction to bring them to a halt. I couldn't keep up with their pace for long. Fearing the inevitable fall, I opted for a controlled fall and went face down into the ditch. That stopped the dogs temporarily. As I lay there on my stomach with arms outstretched as the dogs continued to pull, I contemplated how to move forward safely. A passing FedEx driver checked on me and retrieved my hat that I had lost several feet up the road. The dogs and I proceeded in spurts of moving forward and then me sitting down. The 2 bigger dogs finally calmed down. The beagle would not relent, however, until after he was back in his yard and had done a few laps yowling.

It made me sad when I realized that I couldn't share the story with you . . . and that I would no longer hear your cheery voice on the other end of the phone. Talking with you always raised my spirits.

We had a mutual love for critters—or "beasties," as you would say. I remember your poodle Polly, some of the other dogs and cats, and Sarah's Stella, of course. The ferret was always stealing your slippers. I was grateful when you helped me give IV fluids to my old cat Wheez.

Often, when I see crows, I say, "There's Inky and Bruce" . . . Inky, a crow in a Walt Disney movie I saw on TV when I was very young . . . and Bruce because of your story about the crow your family had raised and named Bruce. You'd say, "There's Bruce," when you'd see a crow out and about.

Speaking of critters! Remember our trip with Sarah to the Cincinnati Zoo? We saw a lot of "beasties," but I recall we were mesmerized by the naked mole rats. We watched them for quite a while.

I appreciated your proper grammar and marvelled at your bravery in saying correctly, "It is I," rather than falling victim to the colloquial, "It's me."

And, oh, our lunches! They were a lovely interlude from our jobs at the School of Optometry. You and Carolyn kept everyone in stitches. We laughed so loudly. I'm surprised the restaurant never shushed us or asked us to leave.

Joanne, you were a kind and caring friend who brought joy into my life.

I miss you deeply. You'd often close our conversations with, "Much love." For some reason then, I wasn't sure how to respond. But, I now know how. Much love, my dear friend.

Terri

Terri Greene - December 03, 2021 at 11:03 AM