



Janet Marie Swanson

November 27, 1952 - December 26, 2015

Janet M. Swanson age 63 of Alexandria died on Saturday, December 26, 2015 at the St. Cloud Hospital. A Funeral Service will be held at 10:30 AM on Wednesday, December 30, 2015 at the Alexandria Covenant Church in Alexandria. Visitation will be held from 5-8 PM on Tuesday, December 29, 2015 at the Anderson Funeral Home and for one hour prior to the service at the church on Wednesday.

OBITUARY

I am thankful for every weed I'm able to pull from my garden. She wrote this in her Christmas letter two years ago, and is perhaps both the best metaphor for her life, and lasting tribute. For a weed is an unwanted plant competing against the cultivated plants, and her illness (that took up nearly one-third of her life) was a series of unwanted ailments, competing for her life. Yet, she fought battle after battle, all the while giving thanks to God for the life she got to live. She embodied gratitude, and is an inspiration to all.

Janet Marie (Rosengren) Swanson was born in the town of Alexandria, Minnesota on November 27, 1952. She was the third child born to Victor and Beatrice (Johnson) Rosengren. She graduated from Jefferson High School in 1971, and went on to obtain an Associate degree at Alexandria Technical College to be a Lab Technician. She began her lab tech career working at Douglas County Hospital, and later went to work for District 206 (primarily at

Voyager Elementary School), as a health aide and retired early for health reasons. Jan married Gary Ralph Swanson on July 24, 1982 at Alexandria Covenant Church, and their son, Seth Tyler Swanson, was born on November 26, 1988 -- a day-early birthday present!

Jan was a fiercely competitive, and extremely skilled and accomplished athlete. She played volleyball and bowled, but her great love was fast-pitch softball. She had the meanest throwing arm that Alex has ever seen, and went on to a nationals tournament. When she was no longer able to play, she enjoyed watching her son play basketball (particularly for the Alexandria Aces) and baseball, and cheered for the Twins and the Vikings.

Her other hobbies included woodworking and painting (she hand-painted unique designs on many of her wood creations), flower gardening (those weeds she pulled!), cooking (her hotdishes will be missed), singing (she belonged to the Sweet Adelines and church choir), dining regularly with the Lunch Bunch Ladies (a group of four women), and reading the Bible (she read through the entire Bible for 33 years straight!).

In her mid-forties, she was diagnosed with lupus and scleroderma. While you might have known she was ill from her physical appearance (she had lost so much weight), you would have never guessed otherwise. For such debilitating diseases, Jan always kept a positive outlook on life, fought fiercely to live, and maintained her sense of humor -- her quick wit always at the ready. She had a brief respite from her illness in 2013 and regained her strength and was able to enjoy some of the activities she loved. And yet, throughout it all, she was forever thinking of people before herself. Just days before she died (knowing her death was imminent) she was still praying for friends and family. She was a selfless woman, and has inspired many without her knowing it.

Jan passed away in the afternoon on Saturday, December 26, 2015 at St. Cloud Hospital. She was 63 years old.

Jan is survived by her husband Gary Swanson, her son Seth Swanson, her sisters Mona Billmark and Karen (Ron) Kraft, and her brother Roger (Caryn) Rosengren. She is preceded in death by her parents, Victor and Beatrice

Rosengren.

The funeral will be held at Alexandria Covenant Church on Wednesday, December 30th at 10:30am, and one of Jan's last wishes was for her funeral to be a celebration of life. So don your colorful apparel, and leave the black at home if you wish. Visitation will be from 5-8pm on Tuesday, December 29th at Anderson Funeral Home, and also one hour prior to the funeral, from 9:30-10:30am at the church. Interment will follow the funeral at Evergreen Cemetery. Casket bearers include her nieces: Katrina Mouser, Hannah Rooney, Ruth Rosengren, Sofia Pettigrew, Kayla Billmark, and Kesha Leets. And finally, a special thanks to all of her caregivers over the years, but especially Gary and Seth, and the nurses by her side during the final weeks of her life.

Jan, you will be missed.

Cemetery Details

Evergreen Cemetery

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **29**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Anderson Funeral Home
659 Voyager
Alexandria, MN 56308
<http://andersonfuneral.net>

Visitation

DEC **30**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Alexandria Covenant Church
Alexandria, MN

Funeral Service

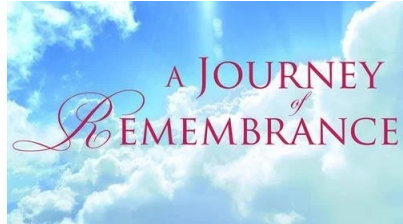
DEC **30**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Alexandria Covenant Church
Alexandria, MN

Tribute Wall



“ Anderson Funeral Home and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Janet Marie Swanson



Anderson Funeral Home - December 29, 2015 at 10:21 AM

BS

What a beautiful tribute to Jan. Seeing her beautiful smile in so many pictures was special. A very touching video of the life of a very special lady. Blessed be her memory.

Barb Schuneman - December 29, 2015 at 10:55 AM

MK

So so special! What beautiful memories. Keep them close to your heart alway.

Maggie Kraket - December 29, 2015 at 08:08 PM

MK

“ Gary, Seth and family members I am so sorry for your loss. She brought much joy and laughter as she worked across the hall from me at Voyager school. I never knew when a rubber band or paper ball would come flying at me from across the hall. If things were missing or moved from my desk I knew who the culprit was. Her strong faith was a great inspiration to everyone. She will be greatly missed. It is a comfort to know she is no longer suffering and is in her heavenly home. May you feel Gods loving arms comforting you at this time. Sorry we can not join you in celebrating Jan's life. We are in our winter home in Texas. Christ's peace
John & Maggie Kraker

Maggie Kraker - December 29, 2015 at 08:47 PM

LQ

“ Gary and Seth, we are so sorry to hear about Jan. We will treasure the breakfast we had with you only a few short weeks ago. Never did we think she would be gone so soon. We had hoped to make it to the funeral but now we will be unable to be there. You are in our thoughts and prayers. May Our Lord bless you in the days, weeks and months ahead. We will talk to you soon. All our love.

With sympathy,
Les and Kathy

Les and Kathy Quinn - December 29, 2015 at 02:31 PM

KA

“ Kathy, Zack, Meghan, Henry, Hannah, Matt, Luke, Lori & Atlas purchased the Fruits and Blooms Basket for the family of Janet Marie Swanson.



Kathy, Zack, Meghan, Henry, Hannah, Matt, Luke, Lori & Atlas - December 29, 2015 at 01:54 PM

BS

“ Saying goodbye is never easy but knowing Jan's suffering has ended should bring us comfort. Our last Lunch Bunch, just days before Jan needed to go to St Cloud Hospital for surgery, was a special day for the four of us. Jan seemed to have that sparkle in her eyes as we enjoyed what ended up to be our last time together. When I think of Jan I think of her love and pride for Gary, Seth, and her extended family, her sense of humor, love of eating at Red Lobster, anything with almond flavoring, being able to be outside enjoying her flowers and their beautiful yard, her love of coffee and always needing something sweet after each of our Lunch Bunch meals. You are at peace, Jan, but you will be greatly missed. We know you are waiting to welcome us to Heaven. Cherish Jan's memory and may God grant you comfort and peace.

Barb Schuneman - December 28, 2015 at 11:36 PM

CY

“ Our condolences go out to all of Jan's family. Her enduring faith and positive attitude throughout her illness was profound. May she rest in the arms of God and her parents in the kingdom of our father God.

Cynthia Yell - December 28, 2015 at 03:07 PM

SB

“ *My sympathy to all of Jan's family. What a special lady with love written all over her face.*

May God's peace be with you

Sandy Buckner

Sandy Buckner - December 28, 2015 at 01:51 PM

KC

“ *Gary and Seth, my eyes are filled with tears as I hear of Jan's passing. She has to be one of the strongest people I've known and especially throughout these last years with her health battles. I still have the special coffee cup she gave me when we both retired from Voyager and will treasure it even more now in her memory. We had so many heart-to-heart chats over coffee and laugh when I think of the times she would "pull my leg" with some silly story or saying and then laugh when she said I had "gullible" written on my forehead. I know she is in a better place without the pain she has endured.*

Sincerely, Kathy Cihlar

Kathy Cihlar - December 28, 2015 at 12:50 PM



“ *Janet will be remembered by me as one of the most determined people I have met. She worked so hard to get well and be the best she could be. She loved all the children at Voyager school and was so patient. I am sad at her passing but know that she is with our heavenly father. Blessings and condolences to her family. You will be in our prayers. Sharon Bridges*

Sharon Bridges - December 28, 2015 at 11:19 AM

CW

“ I'm so sorry for your loss- Gary and Seth I know this is a horrible time for you. Hopefully in time you'll be able to remember all the funny things you did with Jan and the great memories you have of here when she was healthy. I know I always loved working with her in the Health Office at Voyager.....

Carole Westby - December 27, 2015 at 09:01 PM