



Joan Ellyn Wilson

November 15, 1939 - April 3, 2020

Joan Ellyn Church Wilson of Kalkaska, Michigan went home to her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on April 3, 2020. During the final years of her life, Joan was a resident of Kalkaska Memorial Hospital Assisted Living along with her husband of over 60 years, Ronald Clyde Wilson Sr.

Joan was born on November 15, 1939 in Alma, Michigan to Orville L. Church and Naoma Lewis Church. She was one of five children, two of whom (Lynne Church and Sharon Niswonger) predeceased her and two (Colleen (Timothy) Boyer of Alma, Michigan and Carol (Larry) Walker of Alexandria, Indiana) survive.

Joan attended Alma Public Schools, Anderson College and Alma College where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in education. For many years she taught English in the Ludington Area Schools and other Michigan districts, although her primary vocation in life was that of homemaker, loving wife and mother of eight children, all roles in which she excelled with grace and dignity.

In 1959, she married the love of her life, Ronald Clyde Wilson, Sr. and relocated with him to Garden City, Michigan while Ronald attended Wayne State University Law school and Joan taught English in the Garden City Public Schools. Following Ron's graduation from law school, the Wilsons relocated to Ludington, Michigan, where they made their home for over 30 years and

raised eight children.

While living in Ludington, the Wilsons were members of Ludington Community Church and Trinity Evangelical Free Church and were founding members of Mason County Right to Be Born (now known as Right to Life) and were active in the West Michigan Mycological Society. Despite the busyness of their lives, Joan always displayed great warmth and a welcoming spirit of hospitality, and her family's home was frequented by numerous visitors, relatives, and missionary families over the years. Following retirement, Ron and Joan moved to Harrison, Michigan and also enjoyed many winters together at Horseshoe Cove in Bradenton, Florida.

Joan is survived by her devoted husband of 60 years, Ronald Clyde Wilson, Sr., and their eight children, Ronald Clyde (Elizabeth) Wilson Jr., of Eagle, Michigan, Jennifer Joan (Thomas) Kates of Holland, Rebecca Jayne (Roger) Cronk of Cheboygan, Scott Church Wilson of Grand Ledge, Michigan, Elizabeth Ellyn (Kenneth) Zimmerman of Midland, Sarah LeAnne (Dr. Jeremy) Holmes of Alden, Kathryn Joy Currie of Holland and Amy Lynne (Kirk) Priest of Heidelberg, Germany.

Joan is also survived by 24 grandchildren, three great grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews. She dearly loved all of her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, and she found great joy in holding and nurturing the many babies the family has been blessed with over the years.

Her body will be laid to rest in Greenwood Cemetery in Manton, Michigan. A memorial celebration of life will be held in summer 2020. Donations in Joan's memory may be made to Right to Life of Michigan, Protect Life Michigan, Heartland Hospice or to the charity of one's choosing.

Tribute Wall



“ *Our condolences on the passing of your Mom. I have fond memories of her from Sherman street and spending time at your house. She was always so warm and welcoming. She will be missed.*

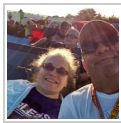
Laura (Hodde), Peter, Dylan, Colin and Anwen Jones

Laura Jones - April 11, 2020 at 11:36 AM



Thank for your kind words Laura!

Elizabeth Zimmerman - April 15, 2020 at 07:21 PM



Thank you Laura! Praying you and your family are well! Becky

Rebecca Cronk - April 15, 2020 at 08:42 PM



“ *Sooo sorry for your loss. She was tremendous example of love and caring. Karl and I send our love to all.*

Karl and Jill McKinstry - April 08, 2020 at 08:25 AM



“ *Sending our love and sympathies to the Wilson and Kates families. So special that you could all gather together in celebration last summer in Ludington. Our hearts are with you.*

Love, Julie and Todd Schrader and all your friends on B Dock ❤️

Julie Schrader - April 06, 2020 at 10:15 AM

MB

“ I am so sorry in the lose of your mom.
Tom and Marian Brady

marian Brady - April 06, 2020 at 09:44 AM

C(

“ Joanie was my big sister that was only 18 months older so we always did a lot of things together. I remember her first day of school and I cried because I couldn't go with her. She graduated from Alma High School in 1957 and received the DAR award. In 1956 she was the Alma Centennial Queen and won a trip to Sarasota, Florida and I got to go with her. Then in 1959 when she and Ron married I was her maid of honor and a year later when I married we just traded dresses. I always looked up to her and she left great footprints for me to follow. I sure am going to miss you sis but we'll meet again on that other shore, in all of God's glory.

Carol J Walker (sister) - April 06, 2020 at 09:06 AM

EZ

Thanks for sharing Aunt Carol. Love and miss you!

Elizabeth Zimmerman - April 15, 2020 at 07:22 PM

RS

“ I am sorry for your loss Amy Wilson Priest & Family!!

The Wilson Family is more than Amazing!! I met Amy my Freshman year at CMU & fell in love with the entire Wilson Family throughout Amy & my friendship at CMU!! Mr. & Mrs. Wilson were blessed with such a beautiful family!! She was such a beautiful, kind, & loving woman of God!!

Praying that God will bless you with memories & love in your hearts & that your entire family will live her legacy!! Such a beautiful & classy woman!!



Raechel Schilke - April 06, 2020 at 12:40 AM

L(

“ I met Joan in 1973 coming out of the maternity ward. I was a nurse aid. Marge McGinnis introduced me to her and said she could probably use some help. Little did I know how much this lady was going to have an impact on me, how she taught me how to love and loved on me. She took me in as one of her kids. She taught me about loving, Jesus, and what it was like to be a Christian and a mother. She mentored me and was an awesome example of a loving Christian mother to her children. I loved that woman. I had never experienced that kind of love from a mom before. I was only there for a year and went back to Muskegon. I went back for graduations, weddings, and received Christmas photos for a lot of years, which I will cherish. I will miss you, Joan. I'm sorry we lost touch but I've already connected to some of the kids. They're as beautiful as I remember. I love you. See you in...whenever God chooses you take me.

lila newald (Hartman-Jensen) - April 05, 2020 at 08:45 PM

JV

“ May our Lord bless you with precious memories of good times with your loved one to help you during this time of grief.. Blessings to all that loved Joan.

jeanette vaughn - April 05, 2020 at 03:08 PM

BB

“ When I remember Mrs. Wilson, I will think of her as mom. She embodied the meaning of the word mother. She listened, cared for, provided for and loved every child as much as her own eight children. I have fond memories of walking into the Wilson home and being greeted by her glorious smile and given a warm hug. When I picture her, I also see the small pin of baby feet that she wore on her lapel. A statement to who she was, what she believed in and how she believed. Finally, I will always remember her to be a faithful servant of God. God Bless. Love always, Beth (Hansen) Baker

Beth Baker - April 05, 2020 at 11:45 AM

MW

“ When I visited Michigan as a teenager, I stayed with Uncle Ron and Aunt Joan for a few days. Although I am pretty shy and did not know my extended family very well, Aunt Joan was very warm and especially kind to me during my stay. She made me feel at home. She was a kind, loving Christian lady and she will be missed.

Melissa Wilson - April 05, 2020 at 09:14 AM

JH

“ Mom Wilson was an inspiration to me throughout the years. Her Love, warmth and comfort during my time of loss will never be forgotten. A true Angel that will forever live in my heart. God Bless.

Jay Hansen - April 05, 2020 at 08:59 AM



Thanks Jay! Miss you guys!

Elizabeth Zimmerman - April 08, 2020 at 10:38 PM