



Janet Hill Stricker

October 31, 1935 - November 12, 2019

Janet Hill (Storms) Stricker left her pain behind on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 to inhabit her perfect glorified body in the place of "no more pain and no more tears".

Janet was born to Robert and Viola Storms in Norwich, CT on October 31, 1935. She graduated from Pratt Institute in New York before moving to CA to pursue her design and sewing career. She worked at Simplicity Patterns at the time she met her future husband, William "Bing" Stricker. Bing was in the Marines at Camp Pendleton. They married on January 18, 1958 in CA. They moved to Traverse City, MI to begin their married life and raise their family.

Janet's professional seamstress career started with altering wedding dresses at Bartlings in downtown Traverse City and then ran a sewing business out of the home while caring for her four children. Many loyal customers have missed her talent for several years now as Janet's physical health declined. She also made baby quilts and hats for the hospital and emergency responders. One of her favorite pastimes was assembling puzzles, which became a full-time activity when she was no longer able to sew. She loved sharing this pastime with her children around the Thanksgiving and Christmas time. She also enjoyed crossword puzzles and word searches. She was also known for "resting her eyes" when she didn't want to admit she was falling asleep in her chair.

Janet can't thank her special helpers enough for their loving care. Many helped her with daily needs, drove her to appointments, and ran errands for her. Thank you, Sharon & Paul Martin, for your devoted transportation services to appointments and social functions. Another special thank you to her loving neighbors, Dick & Sue Bonzelet, who were available at all times to help as needed.

Janet is preceded in death by her parents Robert J. Storms and Viola (Hill) Storms; and her husband, William Henry Stricker "Bing".

She is survived by her two sisters and one brother of Norwich, CT: Marge (Don)

Hargreaves, Barbara (Joe) Trocki, and Robert Storms Jr; In-laws in Traverse City, MI: Elamae Loomis, Dick (Cheryl) Stricker, Rod (Jean) Stricker, and Joyce Stricker; Four children, Donna (Henry) Vietzke of Gladstone, MI, Susan (Eric) Holt of Grand Rapids, MI, Barbara Stricker of Traverse City, MI, and Jim (Brenda) Stricker of Cedar, MI; Her grandchildren: Charles (Sarah) Vietzke of Midland, MI, Caleb Holt of Grand Rapids, MI, Grace (Victor) Luce of Grand Rapids, MI, Joshua (Lisa) Holt of Greenville, MI, Kristi Holt & Isaiah Holt of Grand Rapids, MI, Tyler Stricker of Grand Rapids, MI, Luke Stricker of Midland, MI, and Jacob Stricker of Ann Arbor, MI; 8 great grandchildren: Hazel & Alice Vietzke, Gavin, Emma, & Carter Luce, Clara & James Holt, and Ellianna Holt; and many nieces & nephews in MI & CT.

Funeral services will be Saturday, November 16, 2019 at 3:00 PM with a visitation for friends and family one hour before at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home (305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI 49684). Pastor Jared Ingle will officiate. For those unable to attend the service in person, a live webcast will be available at www.rjfh.tv.

Memorial donations can be directed to the Long Lake Fire Dept or Father Fred Foundation.

Janet and her family are in the care of the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Cemetery

Events

Oakwood Cemetery

1325 East Eighth Street
Traverse City, MI, 49686

NOV 16 Visitation for Family and Friends 02:00PM - 03:00PM

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

NOV 16 Funeral Service 03:00PM

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home & Cremation Services - November 16, 2019 at 07:59 AM



“ we will miss seeing her!!

rachel - November 20, 2019 at 10:05 AM



“ I wasn't able to get up and share the special times with my mom at the funeral, because I don't “pretty cry”...but here it goes. Mom was the BEST mom, mother-in-law, grandma, and great grandma in the whole wide world!

One memory from my school years was when mom would come and wake us up. Donna, Barb, and I shared a bedroom together and she would come in extremely early in the morning on school days and flip the light on. With a smile and sing-song voice she would say "Rise and shine!" We hated it then, but such a fond memory now. We didn't walk up-hill both ways in knee deep snow without boots like our parents did, but we sure had to get up early in order to catch the bus between 6:00 - 6:30 am due to living so far out of town on Long Lake. The bus would pick us up and then drive into Lake Ann, then come back and finish going around Long Lake before taking us into Traverse City. It made for a loooong day for sure.

At the end of each school day we would race into the house and sit on mom's bed to tell her about our day. We all wanted to talk to her first, so the race was on once the bus stopped to let us off. Mom would be at her usual spot at her sewing machine in her bedroom and in order to spend time with her, we sat or laid on her bed to get that quality time. I remember thinking how lucky we were to have our mom there when we got home. I knew not all kids had a mom that worked from home. I don't know if she really heard everything we said during those times we invaded her space, but she made us feel like she was totally there for us while she sewed.

Another great memory was hanging out with mom in her sewing room / bedroom while we watched the annual broadcast of Cinderella and The Wizard of Oz. They always showed them around the holidays. Some of us laid on the bed while others sat on the floor as mom sewed away.

One year when it was getting close to Christmas mom had me try on a skirt and vest that she was making for a little girl my size. Mom only made the best and each piece of clothing made for her customers was perfect. If it wasn't perfect she would rip out the stitches and make it perfect. This outfit was lined and everything. It was top notch and you couldn't tell that it was homemade except for the tag she put in each article of clothing that said, "Lovingly made by Janet Stricker". As I tried the outfit on at each stage of its creation I remember telling mom that I loved it so much I wanted her to make me one. Imagine my surprise when I saw it hanging up on our living room curtain rod Christmas morning. It WAS for me!!! She also made me beautiful maternity dresses, tops, and pants when I started making grand-babies for her...and I did my share of that having 5 children from 1984 to 1992.

Another very fond memory was in the fall when my dad and uncles made homemade cider. The guys would be outside running the apples through the apple press and mom and Aunt Joyce would be inside making homemade doughnuts. Some were plain and some had cinnamon and sugar. I loved both. They deep-fried them and they had a little crunch to them that was "to die for". To this day my favorite doughnut is the plain cake doughnut that has that little crunch to it. I wouldn't turn down a custard-filled long john, but that plain cake doughnut will forever remind me of mom and Aunt Joyce (my second mom - even though I told her once that she wasn't my

mom when she told me what to do. Needless to say, that didn't go over well at all. I got a special time alone in my dad's truck until we went home). Oh, the things naughty kids do, but I think she forgave me! Actually there are many fond memories on the Stricker family farm, but too many to tell.

(continued)

Susan Holt - November 18, 2019 at 12:53 PM



“ Eric and I have had the best mothers-in-law this world could give. I never understood the problem some have had with their mother-in-law. Both our moms would give advice at times but they let us make our own decisions for our little family. Mom was good at giving little tidbits of advice, but always let me make my own decision. That is why I never owned the car of my dreams, the Volkswagen Bug. They just were not safe and I leaned towards safety, especially when mom said so. I trusted her judgment of keeping me safe.

My grandkids loved going up to see great grandma Stricker. They loved that she lived right by Great Wolf Lodge too. Each trip to Great Wolf Lodge would include a visit to Great Grandma Stricker and Great Aunt Barb's house. Mom had collected beanie babies for years and had them in a special display case. The last few years she started letting the great grandkids pick one out to keep each time they came. That will be a very special memory for them. Every visit started and ended with a hug. Even though she couldn't always see us from her bent over position, she got good at hugging our hips, while we surrounded her with our arms.

Mom made sure we all got a call on our birthdays and when she was able to get out and buy birthday cards, we got one of those as well. She was very thoughtful like that.

Well, the memories could go on and on, but I will share a couple of sayings mom had. This wouldn't be complete without them. "Don't get old" – which we obviously didn't listen to. We all have our aches and pains now as we have grown old. Mom also never wanted to admit that she was tired or falling asleep while in our company so she had the perfect answer when we asked if she was sleeping... "I'm resting my eyes" or "I'm checking for holes in my eyelids". At the end of every phone call she said some very precious words..."I love you!". I knew our conversation was complete when I heard those words and I returned them. And after every visit, either out at our Long Lake home or at the condo in town, she would either stand in the drive way or at the door of the house and wave until we were out of sight.

Mom, I love you and I am waving until I see you again.

Susan Holt - November 18, 2019 at 12:52 PM



“ My memories go way back to when visited Norwich with my parents, Al & Dorothy Storms, & sister Muriel, now 88, (in assisted Living in Framingham), & sister Joyce, also born in 1935, who passed last March in Worcester, where she lived her whole life. near her 4 kids, & 4 grandchildren , & now about 7 great grandchildren. I, Judy, have had more lives than a cat in various places, & am settled in Briny Breezes, FL with 2 kids who are also in FL, but son about to transfer to NYC. We had great family reunions with the Storms clan in CT. Each of the girls of Viola & Robert were about the the same age as the 3 girls in my family, so Barbara was my pal. Eventually, I got closer to Robert, Jr. because we had a mutual interest in Genealogy, & he kept all the relatives in touch. I admired Janet for her fashion sense & sewing talent. She probably made patterns I used to sew early in my young adulthood. I appreciated being able to participate in the lovely memorial service on U Tube. Sounds like Janet was an active in her faith & community-- like our family traditions molded us. Love to all who said goodbye to her today.
Judy Storms Kraft

Judith S Kraft - November 16, 2019 at 04:13 PM



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karen hargreaves - November 16, 2019 at 01:31 PM



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Karen Hargreaves - November 16, 2019 at 01:24 PM



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Susan Holt - November 13, 2019 at 10:33 PM



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Susan Holt - November 13, 2019 at 10:30 PM



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Susan Holt - November 13, 2019 at 10:20 PM



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Susan Holt - November 13, 2019 at 10:16 PM



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Susan Holt - November 13, 2019 at 10:00 PM



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Susan Holt - November 13, 2019 at 09:56 PM