



Joanne Louise Syre

May 3, 1944 - June 18, 2022

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Joanne Louise Syre lived a grace filled life as a loving wife, devoted mother and Oma (grandmother). She was a long-time resident of Moses Lake, Washington who passed away at home and went to be with her Lord and Savior on June 18, 2022 at age 78. She was married to Steve Syre and raised three daughters – Marlo, Gina, and Erika.

Joanne was born in Portland, Oregon May 3, 1944, to Dr. John and Gladys (Blankers) Cook of Dutch descent. She grew up in Lynden, Washington graduating from Lynden High School in 1962.

She met her husband, Steve Syre, on a blind date at Washington State University (WSU) in 1963. They were married in Lynden, Washington in 1967 and moved to Fort Knox, Kentucky where Steve was serving in the U.S. Army. They lived a short time in Ephrata and Soap Lake, Washington before settling in Moses Lake to raise a family.

Joanne was a teacher. After graduating from WSU, she taught elementary school in Seattle. At Fort Knox, Kentucky, she taught science to Vietnam veterans in the GED Program. In Moses Lake, she taught English as a Second Language (ESL) in the Japanese Agricultural Training Program at Big Bend Community College for many years. Her students adored Mrs. Syre.

Joanne had a passion for serving God, teaching, helping others and making people in her life feel special. She dedicated her time to raising her three girls

and created a home filled with love and special family traditions. Joanne loved engaging in Bible study with her dear friends, both as a participant and leader. Joanne was a member of the First Presbyterian Church and enjoyed being involved in a variety of activities. She, along with her husband Steve, led the local Parkinson's Support Group for many years.

Joanne loved to swim, play piano, sing hymns, bake, make crafts, play games (played a great game of Scrabble), and gather with family and friends. She loved family time, celebrating birthdays and holidays, vacations, and traveling to the family Winthrop cabin. She always treasured the time with her three grandchildren and traveling to the Seattle area to spend time with her daughters and family.

She was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 1977 and managed live a full life with the disease. The challenges of Parkinson's disease drew her closer to the Lord. She remained grateful with a positive attitude, always giving thanks. Joanne kept a note stating "give thanks" by her medicine. Joanne always had a listening ear and was a good, caring friend to so many. She always enjoyed sharing a cup of tea and cookies with others.

When asked, who is the one person you would like to meet, Joanne answered, "Jesus". She is going home to be with her Lord and Savior where she can run and jump again. Joanne will be remembered as a kind and sweet person who was always there to support and encourage others. Joanne will be deeply missed by her family and friends as she has been an inspiration to us all, leading her life through faith. A heartfelt thanks to the caregivers who loved and cared deeply for Joanne over the past months, and years.

She is survived by her husband, Stephen Eugene Syre, and three daughters and spouses: Marlo and James Caldwell, Gina and Patrick Short, and Erika and Erik Gilbertson. She is also survived by her three grandchildren: Austin and Makenson Short, and Caitlyn Caldwell as well as her two sisters: Linda Cook Lagerwey and Trish Cook Rogers (Jim), nieces and nephews and numerous cousins. She was predeceased by her father Dr. John Cook in 1984, her mother Gladys (Blankers) Cook in 2016, and youngest sister,

Stephanie Faye Cook in 1980.

A private family graveside service will be held in Lynden, Washington. If you find yourself in nature, or surrounded by flowers, the family asks you to dedicate some special thoughts or prayers for her. She'll know.

The family would love to hear your special memories of Joanne through mail or email.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to:

American Parkinson Disease Association (APDA) – Northwest Chapter in Seattle, Washington

www.apdaparkinson.org/northwest

or

Northwest Parkinson's Foundation (NWPF) in Mercer Island, Washington

<https://nwpf.org/>

Tribute Wall

CK

“ Steve, So sorry to hear about the passing of your wife, Joanne.
Jerry Morasch
(Blue Lake)
Anacortes, WA

Cheryl Kennish - July 24, 2022 at 03:55 PM

DE

“ We just heard of Joanne's passing. She was such a beautiful person inside and out. Even with her disability she lived a life gracefully. I pray she is free and is smiling and watching over her beautiful girls from heaven. She will always be remembered. Denise Pedersen

denise - June 25, 2022 at 08:57 AM

RF

“ We are thinking of you and your family.
Sending our prayers. May you find comfort in the knowledge of her healing by the sight of Gods face and embrace of his arms.



Rashford Family - June 22, 2022 at 11:17 PM



“ *Joanne was the person I always admired. She always had a smile in her eyes, because that's the only way people with Parkinsons can smile. When I arrived in Moses Lake searching for a doctor who specialized in Parkinsons, because I wasn't getting the medical attention I needed for my early onset Parkinsons, I met Steve and Joanne. I truly believe God sent me here to meet you guys. You got me involved with the support group, the singing group, and kept informing me of anything new happening in the Parkinsons world. I remember the times when Joanne could not stop moving and she never complained! Now that I'm going through it I keep thinking of her and it makes it so much easier, because it will pass. I wish I had met her sooner, but she was still helping us others with Parkinsons, setting the example. I feel bad that covid changed a lot of things. We truly have to be there for each other. I eat my sweets first, because Joanne said life is too short, so make sure you eat the good stuff first! Joanne enjoyed life and always looked for the sunshine of every day. Thank you for sharing her with us. God truly loved her and her beautiful children, and yes, Steve also!! Love to you all! I have something to give you, so will drop it by soon.*

Janet Staples - June 22, 2022 at 10:12 PM

EG

“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



Erika Syre Gilbertson - June 22, 2022 at 02:57 PM

BS

Joanne was a very kind friend in high school and I'm not surprised she kept that same spirit throughout her life. She now sees in reality what was only seen before by faith. God bless you all

Bryan Arneson Sr - June 25, 2022 at 06:21 PM

FE

So beautiful!

feliciarr1967@gmail.com - June 26, 2022 at 09:31 PM

LA

*Remembering your family in prayer. May the angels hold you close in comfort. I will look at the flowers and remember.
Steve and Laurie Ahmann*

Laurie Ahmann - July 01, 2022 at 08:05 PM

JM

*Steve, so sorry to hear about your wife, Joanne.
Jerry Morasch
(Blue Lake)
Anacortes, WA.*

Jerry Morasch - July 24, 2022 at 05:44 PM

KM

I just came upon Joanne's obituary. I admired her and enjoyed knowing her. It's hard to lose a loved one. She did a great job of coping and was an inspiration to many.

Kathleen Miles - August 06, 2022 at 03:30 PM

SB

*Steve family, and extended family,
You have been on my mind since I heard the news of Joanne's passing. My sincere condolences. I didn't get the opportunity so spend much time with my Washington cousins over the years, but Joanne was one of my favorites. She was always so fun to be around and such a kind person. She had to deal with so much physically, and yet seemed so upbeat and loved life. She was blessed with you and your love and care. I know that she will be missed deeply. I will always remember her fondly. I heard from Shelli that her memorial service was beautiful. I wish I could have teleported myself from Delaware to attend. Love and prayers to you as you continue to mourn her loss. God Bless. Love, Shirley*

Shirley Blankers - September 11, 2022 at 05:11 PM