



## Susan Diane Cavanaugh

December 16, 1954 - May 14, 2023

Susan Diane Cavanaugh, 68, of Moses Lake, joined her father Curtis Ostrom in Heaven

on May 14, 2023. She was born December 16, 1954 in Minneapolis. She is survived by

her mother, Ellen; her step-father, William; her step-mother, Kathe; her husband of 46

years, Timothy; her three sons, Sean, Neil, and Ian; and her six grandchildren, Grey,

Hazel, Axel, Caz, Carter, and Nicholas.

As a mother, Susan gained a well-deserved reputation for sewing her children original

(and often prize-winning) Halloween costumes. In between cans of Tab, she mastered

cake decorating so that she could make her boys highly stylized (and delicious) birthday

cakes. Despite an uneasy detente with bugs and dirt, she gleefully served as a den

mother when her sons took an interest in cub scouts. And she spared no effort in

sharing her love of skiing with her children, whether it rained all day or not.

She

attended every basketball game, every swim meet, every play, every recital,

every

graduation... always a little furnace of love, radiating affection for her boys.

Susan's greatest gift was tied to her domestic skills but went far beyond it. In

an age

where we are all urged "not to sweat the small stuff," she believed that details,

even tiny

ones, even the ones only she noticed, mattered. From the handcrafted

curtains, dust

ruffles, throw pillows, and window seats to the Amish furniture, folk art, and

omnipresent

pottery, every inch of Susan's home was engraved with her personality. She

wrestled

endlessly over the right paint colors, the right wrapping paper, the right flowers

in the

perfect places to bloom in the correct order.

Her attention to detail extended everywhere in Susan's life. The thoughtful gift.

The

perfectly-timed smile. The well-placed word of reassurance. She was a master

at

avoiding lulls in conversation precisely because she wanted to save others

from

awkward pauses. "You should always be nice to everyone," she once

explained,

"because you never know what else is happening in their lives." And she was.

Nice. To

everyone. Not Minnesota nice. Not polite. She was genuinely kind. It often

took

strangers months to realize that she was not putting on a show. Then, out of

the blue,

the person would remark to her quizzically, "So, you're just this nice all the

time?"

As “Grammy,” Susan doted upon her grandchildren, playing endless board games (usually resisting the urge to cheat), coloring, and listening with rapt attention as they babbled about their lives. She always planned activities for the kids and rewarded herself with a twinkly smile whenever she succeeded in showing them a good time. Pigs could fly past her head, and she would still steadfastly refuse to acknowledge that her little angels could do anything wrong. She never forgot a holiday or a birthday, and she stamped each occasion with a card scrawled out in her distinctive penmanship. Susan died, as she lived, preoccupied with the well-being of everyone around her. No one met her whose life hasn’t been embroidered with her spirit. Susan’s memorial will be held in Minnesota in late July. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Shriners Hospitals for Children or St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital.

# Tribute Wall

BP

“ I knew my very wonderful STEP DAUGHTER SUSAN SINCE 1974 when I married her Mother. I even introduced her several times as my daughter. We had such a really great relationship all those years sometimes talking for hours on the phone or in our home. She took care of me several times when I needed help. The only PROBLEM was she always lived hundreds of miles from her Mom and me. And like they say "There is no closer relationship than between a Mother and daughter". I even put in a second phone line so they could talk for hours on end. Yes poor Susan and her Mom were kept apart all those years except for a few days each year. I will miss her forever as her last words to me before she passed away saying I love you Bill.

*Bill Polta*

*Bloomington Minnesota*

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**Bill Polta** - June 26, 2023 at 11:59 AM

CR

*Like Susan I enjoy sewing  
Panels and Banners I  
would like to have known her! Cindy Rayburn*

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**Cindy M Rayburn** - January 29, 2024 at 05:56 AM

SJ

“ Susan was a very sweet and kind friend, I knew she was next door if I ever

needed something. We had a lot of laughs at the Dollar Up store, everyone

enjoyed Susan. The girls brought the best out of her, she always had a smile

on. If we thought someone took something, she would say OH really! she

was very trusting. Susan talked about her grandkids and couldn't wait to see

them on the next visit. If the light was on in her sewing room I knew she was

quilting for the grandkids. Even though there's no light, she holds a bright

light in my heart. I will miss her very much.

Love You Susan!

Sheri

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**Sheri Jacobsen** - June 05, 2023 at 10:38 AM

CK

“ Susan was often and always will be in my mind and heart as a most treasured friend with a beautiful soul. We met when our children were in grade school playing sports. She was so proud of her boys in whatever they did. We instantly knew we liked each other's hearts, bonded, and shared common thoughts on just about everything on the planet. We could talk for hours in person or on the phone about faith, politics, and life. It was fun to update each other on what was happening. We never had an argument, not ever. Susan wouldn't allow strife with unconditional love for others. Her compassion taught me to be a better person. I loved her wit and sophistication. For one reason or another, we've had prolonged communication periods, when finally catching up she'd say, "Oh we've got to talk more often, too much has happened." Her children's/grandchildren's lives were her world with the deepest love a person can have. She admired her husbands' love, support, and wisdom. I remember her saying lovingly with a chuckle, "Tim is usually always right". She really meant...he was.

We shopped until we dropped, bowled on a league, golfed, and enjoyed going to lunch. Even talked about opening a garden shop together. She enjoyed flowers, and plants, with the creativity of landscaping. We could hardly wait to find the latest miniature Dept 56 items for our lighted houses, she loved gift shops.

She was always there when I needed support with health issues, or moving, and used her detailed sewing talent to make valances and dresser scarves for my bedroom. There are many days I've passed by her handy work or a birthday gift she gave and think of her fondly. She knew how much I liked snowmen and gave me a special little ceramic one I put out every winter season. I will never forget the surprise birthday cake she made me and brought to bowling. A professional could've done a better job. It was complete with a ball and pins...so COOL! She was humble, never flaunting God's talents given her.

I've been going back and forth waving from I-90 to her usually rushing to live part-time caring for my mother for the past two years. She got Covid with hospitalization for 2 months and has had many emergencies ever since affecting her entire health. My heart goes

*out to your whole family during her illness. Caregiving is love, God's strength given us to help others in kindness. It's exhaustive but rewarding to make a difference in someone's life. I would've liked to have helped Susan in any way possible to ease her pain. To let her know how much she meant to me all these years. I also know how she didn't want to cause anyone worry. She'd much rather help others. She was a quiet private person in public. Neither of us was what you'd call very "mushy" with outward feelings. Still, I knew it was special when we hugged saying goodbye until we met again, She was a good servant of God here on earth in so many ways she wasn't even aware of. We talked of her father's care and death. His last smile touched her deeply, telling her he was going home. She knew that meant he was in heaven. It gave her great comfort. Susan is now home with him. I will never forget her smile and the sound of her laughter. I will cherish memories of her with love and pray I will be with her someday again in heaven. Your forever friend,  
Connie*

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**Connie Kassa** - May 19, 2023 at 11:22 AM