



Joanne Marilyn Benninghoff Bechtold

July 5, 1928 - May 7, 2016

Joanne Marilyn Benninghoff Bechtold, Devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

On the evening of May 7th, 2016, Joanne passed away peacefully at Sarasota Memorial Hospital in Sarasota, FL, comforted by her family. She was 87 years old.

Joanne was born in Cleveland, Ohio on Monday, July 5th, 1928, as the only child to Alma and William Benninghoff. She moved to Sarasota with her growing family in 1958, after graduating from Wheaton College in 1953. It was here that she raised her family, built a prodigious career, and gave back to her community by supporting countless local non-profit organizations.

Later in life, Joanne retired as Vice President of Bank of America Trust Company and continued to work unwaveringly with local causes she passionately supported. Most notably, she was honored to be closely involved with Junior League, the American Heart Association, and the Red Cross, where she was elected to be First Vice Chairman. Joanne also co-founded and worked tirelessly with All Children's Hospital Guild Sarasota/Manatee Branch.

As an active member of the Church of the Redeemer, Joanne always found

great strength in her faith. Her accomplishments in life were only ever overshadowed by her modesty in her own work and pride in the work of those around her. She was fiercely independent, well-spoken, and gracious through her years. She cherished her family and friends dearly and maintained relationships that spanned for decades - many from her own childhood in Cleveland and from her time raising a family in Sarasota.

Joanne was preceded in death by her son William Bechtold, Sr. (Bill), her daughter-in-law Cynthia Bechtold, and grandson, William Bechtold, Jr. (Little Billy).

She is survived by her children Howard Bechtold of Miami, Karen Trudeau of St. Petersburg, and Sharon Bechtold Smith of Jacksonville; and grandchildren Kevin Bechtold, Katie Torgerson, Alicia Thornton, Jessica Thornton, Crystle Bechtold Parrish, and Jenni Ross. She was blessed with 4 great-grandchildren - Ender, William, Anastasia, and Riley.

The viewing will take place from 4:00-7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 12th at the Toale Brothers Colonial Chapel, 40 North Orange Avenue, Sarasota.

The funeral will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, May 13th, at the Church of the Redeemer, 222 South Palm Avenue, Sarasota, followed by the burial at Sarasota Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Joanne's memory to All Children's Hospital Guild Sarasota/Manatee Branch 5881 Rand Boulevard, Sarasota, FL 34238.

Tribute Wall

JH

“ Our thoughts and prayers to KT, Alicia, Jessica, and the Family. May Joanne rest in peace. Treasure the wonderful memories. God Bless. Love, Kathleen & Jim

Jim Hannigan - May 11, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ Skipper, Karen, Sharon and your families. We were saddened to hear about your Mom/Grandmother. I know she was Cousin Joanne, but in actuality she was more like an Aunt to us because she was like a sister to Mom. Even though we only saw her in person a few times, we had many, many long visits over the phone. She was so cordial and interesting to visit with. She shared much about each one of you and your families and told many interesting facts about our ancestry that my Grandma Blake or Mom did not tell us about. (Since Mom's memory is not like it used to be and can't relay stories much, we loved to talk to Joanne and hear the wonderful stories about what it was like in days gone by.) So when Mom and Joanne talked we would listen in on the extension phone and had 3 way conversations. I pray that your precious memories of your Mom and our LORD's Amazing Love will carry you through the hard days ahead. Hopefully we can continue communicating through the second and third generations and keep in touch.

Denese and Bill Runyan - May 11, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ My deepest condolences to Sharon, Skipper, Karen and families as you celebrate the life of your mom and grandmother. She was a very special person in the lives of the Moon Families. Mom talked a lot about her and their time together. There were many stories and pictures of how the two girls grew up together. How their mom's got together every week and sewed while the girls played dolls. Mom wasn't satisfied on her birthday until Joanne called. And she remembered Joanne's birthday out of all the things she can't remember these days. May our families away stay connected through this bond that was made so many years ago. And May God Bless you and give you comfort during this difficult time. Much love from Connie (Moon) Rowland

Connie Rowland - May 10, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ Although I only met Joanne once when I had a chance to visit her a few years ago, I feel like I have known her a lifetime. As my Mother's only cousin, I remember countless discussions about Joanne and the family. All discussions were with great fondness and affection. After meeting her in person, I see why she is so loved. My heart goes out to the family with your loss of such a special mother and grandmother. My prayers and thoughts are with you. Pam

Pamela Moon - May 09, 2016 at 12:00 AM