



Joan Keenan

April 2, 1955 - July 3, 2019

JOAN KATHLEEN DUNAWAY KEENAN (b. April 2, 1955, d. July 3, 2019)

Joan Kathleen Dunaway Keenan, of Jefferson City, died Wednesday, July 3, 2019. She was 64.

Joan was born on April 2, 1955 to the late Frank Shropshire and Mary Helen Dunaway of Diamond, Mo. She attended elementary school at Diamond R-12 and junior high and high school at Carthage Public Schools in Carthage, Mo.

After graduating high school in 1973, she spent a year abroad in what was then Belgrade, Yugoslavia through the American Field Service. In 1974, she enrolled at Newcomb-Tulane College in New Orleans. In 1976, Joan spent a year abroad in Madrid, Spain. In 1978, Joan graduated with a bachelor's degrees in Spanish with an emphasis in Latin American and Spanish literature and in studio art with an emphasis in printmaking.

Soon after, Joan accepted a legal assistant/paralegal position at the New Orleans branch of Jones Walker LLP. In her 14 years at the law firm, she would go on to work as a recruiting administrator, liaison to the professional employment committee, liaison to the management committee and adjunct to the committee on practice standards.

Joan married Bayne Keenan of New Orleans on June 16, 1984 at Grace Episcopal Church in Carthage. The couple resided in New Orleans and had two daughters, Charlotte and Madeleine. In June 1992 the family moved onto Elmerine Avenue in Jefferson City.

Between 1992 and 1995, Joan worked as an administrative assistant at Memorial Community Hospital and the Missouri Bar. In 1995, she joined the Missouri Department of Mental Health (MDMH) as administrative assistant to the director of human resources. Joan remained employed with MDMH for 22 years.

She earned her master's in business administration at William Woods University in 2010.

At MDMH, she became assistant coordinator of the office of disaster services, where she played a significant role in organizing the mental health response after the 2011 Joplin tornado. In 2017, Joan retired from MDMH as director of the office of disaster services.

A lifelong Episcopalian, Joan began attending Grace Episcopal Church in Jefferson City in 1992. She participated as a Vestry member, as well as a soprano in the church choir. While her daughters were young, Joan hosted an annual neighborhood Halloween party and adopted the title of “Wicked Witch of Elmerine.” She helped found the Jefferson City Public Schools’ Orchestra Boosters, serving a term as president. She participated in the local chapters of Indivisible and MomsRising. A Master Gardener, Joan received local recognition for her skill in shade gardening and cultivating perennial plants, particularly hydrangeas.

Joan became a certified yoga instructor, teaching accessible and restorative yoga classes at Missouri River Regional Library and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Jefferson City. Joan also enjoyed bicycling with friends on the Katy Trail.

Joan is survived by her husband, Bayne; daughters Charlotte Keenan and Madeleine Schwerin (Andrew); grandchildren Beulah, Hans and Scott Schwerin; siblings Frank “Shrop” Shropshire Dunaway, Charlotte Holland “Holly” Joyce (Max), Knox Garvin Dunaway (Charlotte) and Helen Marie Haughey (Jeff); numerous nieces and nephews and her two dog companions, Roxanne “Roxy” and Gertrude “Trudy.”

Services will be held at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, July 14 at Grace Episcopal Church in Jefferson City, followed immediately by an informal reception to celebrate Joan’s life at the church. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Compassus Living Foundation in memory of Joan.

Events

JUL Memorial Service 09:30AM

14

Grace Episcopal Church

217 Adams Street, Jefferson City, MO, US, 65101

Comments



“ What a great gal! Just learned of her passing. Joannie was so vibrant, smart, funny -- one just had to admire her. She lit up any space she happened to be in. — Marilyn Morrow Finley

Marilyn Finley - September 07 at 07:14 PM



“ Joan (She'll always be "Joanie" to me! :), invited me to be her escort to the "military ball' (ROTC) in high school. We grew up in the Episcopal Church together in Carthage. We recruited my long time friend George Campbell, to be our 'driver'. We borrowed a limousine from my dads business and went in style to the 'ball'. It was a blast. As anyone who knew Joan (Joanie) knew all too well, there was never a dull moment with that girl....non stop laughs that night, between George, me and Joan(ie). Two years ago, I lost my good buddy George....Now he and Joan(ie) are tooling around in one of God's 'limo's', just like the old days.

Joan was always a class act. RIP, lady. See you again one day.

Mark Ulmer

Mark H Ulmer - July 13 at 01:44 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Joan Keenan.



July 12 at 08:43 AM



“ Joan's lively spirit and personality continues to brighten and bring smiles to the many persons she met and lives she touched. Even now I can not help but smile as I look at her photo and remember her from days gone by at DMH. May her family and friends be comforted knowing that she has been released from the pain, troubles and toils of this world and has found Peace!!

Kim Rieke - July 09 at 11:14 AM



“ Such a wonderful, bubbly, caring, one of a kind individuals! I will never forget you and I'm not sure many could. I know your light is shining bright in a place far from here now. Prayers to the family.

Tricia Dusheke - July 09 at 10:26 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joan Keenan.



July 09 at 09:22 AM



“ I'll miss you forever! You were a bright flame that burned so hot and extinguished far too soon. You made being at work fun! You lit the cow candle and we celebrated something nearly every week! Rest in peace, Joan Girl. And thanks for the day lily starts! They're going strong and will remind me of you. Love ya, Nurse Susie

Susie Klapp - July 09 at 01:48 AM



“ Joanie: So caring, sweet, smart and fun. Her last words to me after a yoga class last year were 'take care of yourself.' I loved her and pray for peace and comfort for you all.

Julie Harker - July 08 at 01:18 PM



“ All those of us who loved her yoga classes are blessed by her time on earth. Memories of her vitality, caring, and laughter will continue to bless all who knew her. Bev

Bev Price - July 08 at 11:44 AM



“ Joan was such a joy and so funny! I am deeply saddened to hear of her passing. Catfish Rodeos will never be the same.....
Liz Hagar-Mace

Liz Hagar-Mace - July 08 at 11:35 AM



“ A wonderful, vibrant, funny soul. So sorry she left us . Virginia Selleck

virginia selleck - July 08 at 11:04 AM



“ My heart aches for you Bayne. Joan was a force of nature, and you her perfect compliment.
Jan

Jan Heumann - July 08 at 09:18 AM



“ What a wonderful lady! I worked with Joan on various projects that caused our departments to interact. She was always delightful and insightful. In my mind, she is one of those people who made the world a better place by being in it. I am saddened by her passing but know she has gone on to a better place. Rest in peace Miss Joan. You will be missed.

Sheila Huddleston

Sheila Huddleston - July 08 at 08:53 AM



“ She was a fountain of laughter.

Paul Graham - July 07 at 02:34 PM



“ I didn't know Joan well, but she was always a delight to be around. She was a firecracker and just a joyful person. My deepest sympathies to her family and all who knew her.

Ashley Keely - July 06 at 02:37 PM



“ What a lovely soul. I'll miss her! I loved her energy and the fun we had.

Julie Liu - July 06 at 10:38 AM



“ Rest In Peace, sister in Christ. You were beloved by many. Jeanie Bryant

Jeanie Bryant - July 05 at 11:19 PM



“ Baruch Dayan Emet. May Joan's memory be for a blessing. I always enjoyed working with her. A beautiful smile and a beautiful neshama. May you be comforted among the mourners. Dana

Dana Hall - July 05 at 02:53 PM



“ Joan was a wonderful colleague, friend and great spirit. Her work and life will always be remembered with love and gratitude. Thank ypu Joan, for sharing so much of yourself.

April Naturale - July 05 at 12:46 PM



“ Joanie was such a beautiful and bright spirit. it was as if she was lit from within. It was my delight and honor to have known her for a short time. Fly free precious Janie!

Cynthia Johnson - July 05 at 10:17 AM



“ Joan was a light to many in the darkness! May she continue to shine her light through those she knew and those she helped through painful times. Prayers and condolences to her family



Candy Adams - July 05 at 09:39 AM