



## Joan L. Willenbring

September 23, 1956 - October 7, 2017

Joan Loretta (Hansen) Willenbring, 61, of Jacobs Prairie, entered eternal life on Saturday, Oct. 7, at her home surrounded by family. Funeral services and Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 14, at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Cold Spring, followed by a burial at St. James cemetery in Jacobs Prairie. Visitation will be 4-8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 13 and 8:30-9:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 14, at Wenner Funeral Home in Cold Spring.

Joanie was born in St. Cloud to Leander and Arnella (Krueger) Hansen on Sept. 23, 1956. She shared a heart and soul with her identical twin sister, Jeanie. She married Michael J. Willenbring on May 19, 1979, at St. James Catholic Church in Jacobs Prairie. Joan and Mike lived their entire married lives in Jacobs Prairie, where they raised their two sons, Jim and Bob.

She was an active member of St. James, where she served as a lector for most of her adult life and managed the raffle for the parish bazaar for many years. In addition, she was involved in St. Anne's Christian Women's Society and was a founding member of JP Quilters.

Joanie received her LPN degree from Willmar Technical College and her RN degree from North Hennepin Community College. She committed her 40-year nursing career to St. Cloud Hospital, most of that time in the float pool, before her retirement in December 2015. She cherished the opportunity to work alongside many talented and caring people and was highly respected among her co-workers.

Joanie managed breast and ovarian cancer over the span of 18 years. She

was a wonder of positivity, strength, and courage to all who knew her, never measuring her life by her illness or cancer treatments. She was always caring for someone else; consistently putting others' needs before her own. She cherished quilting, biking trips with girlfriends, sisters' weekends, her, and Mike's annual vacations to Jamaica and most of all, spending time with her five granddaughters.

Joanie was a light in many people's lives and leaves behind an abundance of family and friends: her husband, Mike, of 38 years, and their sons Jim (Janet) of St. Nicholas, MN; Bob (Amanda) of Bismarck, ND and the lights of her life, granddaughters Megan, Chelsea, Olivia, Abby and Sammy, along with her sisters and brothers, Sandy of Jacobs Prairie, Jean (Don) Stock of St. Joseph, Deb (Bob) Heinen of Richmond, Tom (Donna) of Jacobs Prairie, Jeff of Cold Spring, Tammy (Tom) Moore of Royalton and Pam of St. Joseph, along with many much-loved nieces and nephews, in-laws and friends. She is preceded in death by her parents, Leander and Arnella Hansen, father- and mother-in-law Joseph and Renee Willenbring and infant grandson, Isaac Willenbring. With gratitude for all who provided care for Joanie over the years, including CentraCare Coborn Cancer Center, Palliative Care Team and Home Care and Hospice.

# Cemetery Details

## St. James Parish Cemetery

Jacobs Prairie, MN

# Previous Events

## Gathering of Relatives and Friends

OCT **13.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Wenner Funeral Home - Cold Spring  
600 Red River Ave. So.  
Cold Spring, MN 56320

## Gathering of Relatives and Friends

OCT **14.** 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM (CT)

Wenner Funeral Home - Cold Spring  
600 Red River Ave. So.  
Cold Spring, MN 56320

## Funeral Services

OCT **14.** 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Boniface Catholic Church  
501 Main Street  
Cold Spring, MN 56320

# Tribute Wall



“ *Joan L. Willenbring*

January 29, 2023 at 09:26 AM



“ *Joanie always put everyone else first... she was an angel on earth. She never complained about her illness and looked st the positive in life. She talked about her travels and husband often. Miss Joanie you will be missed.*



**stella Scholl** - October 13, 2017 at 08:29 AM



“ *This woman was such a loving, kind beautiful angel. I worked with her for many years. She is resting in Gods arms now. And still watching over everyone with caring eyes. So strong. My thoughts are with you at this difficult time. Gods Blessings for all who are hurting. Joan will be truly Missed by many. Lovely memories.*



*Cathy Sigler*

**Cathy Sigler** - October 12, 2017 at 09:14 AM

CK

“ *Deepest sympathy to the Willenbring and Hansen families. I did not know Joan personally, but I worked with Jeanie and I know how close they were. Hugs to you Jeanie and may God give you peace and comfort at this difficult time. You are in my prayers.*

*Carol Kenning*



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**Carol Kenning** - October 11, 2017 at 06:26 PM



“ *Imagination Blooms was purchased for the family of Joan L. Willenbring.*



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October 11, 2017 at 11:57 AM



“ *Garden of Serenity Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joan L. Willenbring.*



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October 10, 2017 at 09:53 PM

DC


“ Joanie, Mike and a number of others established a friendship in Jamaica in 2009. Despite only seeing each other once a year, we all so looked forward to it. It was a time to catch up on much needed rest, share not only the funny things and our accomplishments that had happened to us through the year, but also the tough and sometimes heartbreaking issues that had occurred. The friendship came easy. We knew Joanie’s battle and her strength never failed to amaze us. Joanie passed during our Canadian Thanksgiving holiday. In a way it was very fitting as David and I are so truly thankful for having met and shared so many wonderful days and nights in paradise (Irie) with her and Mike. Mike we love you and so did she. To her children, and grandchildren - boy was she so very proud of you. Joanie was so loved and she will be missed. Rest in peace ma lady.

*Dona and David Currie.*



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**Dona and David Currie** - October 10, 2017 at 09:23 PM

 Katrina Dieger-Koenig

“ I worked with Joan at the hospital. She was an amazing woman who never be forgotten. Rest in peace Joan thoughts and prayers to her family.



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**Katrina Dieger-Koenig** - October 10, 2017 at 07:56 PM

KF

“ Our deepest sympathy to Sandy and the rest of the Hansen family. May your precious memories bring you peace and comfort.

Ken & Karol Fredrickson - October 10, 2017 at 01:28 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joan L. Willenbring.



October 10, 2017 at 01:05 PM

LL

“ I am so sorry to hear of Joan's illness and death. I worked with her in the past at St. Cloud hospital and she was a compassionate, reliable, excellent nurse and wonderful person. My heart goes out to all of her family. God bless you 🙏. Linda Lindberg

linda lindberg - October 10, 2017 at 10:53 AM

JA

“ Joan was a wonderful person. We went back for our RN classes together. When she floated to OB where I worked she always had a smile on her face. Our sympathy & prayers to her family. RIP Joan,

Jan Ahlstrand - October 10, 2017 at 09:58 AM

EK

“ Joan was a true nurse and a very kind person. Just a warm spirit. My sympathies to her family. What an incredible loss.

Erin Kittridge - October 10, 2017 at 02:13 AM

JH

“ I knew Joan and Jean as I was their classmate at Rocori. Am heartbroken at this news of her passing and long illness. I always remember her with a smile on her face! My prayers will be for her family and friends. May they get some comfort and peace knowing she is with God and will suffer no more. They can hold close those wonderful memories they have of her in their hearts forever.

*Jackie Hoffmeyer  
Rocori, Class of 74*

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**Jackie Hoffmeyer** - October 09, 2017 at 11:59 PM

LA

“ I always enjoyed working with Joanie! She was caring, hard working and made work fun!

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**linda abel** - October 09, 2017 at 11:37 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Joanie's passing. I pray that God would surround all Joanie's family & her twin sister Jeanie with his love, his strength & his peace.

*Rocori classmate & Willmar Votech roommate  
Dena(Stransky)Reiners*

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**Dena Reiners** - October 09, 2017 at 11:17 PM

JJ

“ My condolences to the family. I am a volunteer at the Coborn Cancer Center & had many nice visits with Joanie during her treatments. She was a wonderful person & was loved by all at the Cancer Center! My heart goes out to all of you❤️

*Jo Johnson*

Jo Johnson - October 09, 2017 at 10:04 PM

SS

“ My deepest sympathy to Joanie's family...she was a class mate of mine , who always had kind words for all. I know she will be missed by many.

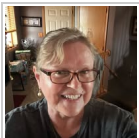
Sandy Storms - October 09, 2017 at 08:46 PM

SN

“ I worked with Joanie at the SCH. She was always a ray of sunshine. Always a positive spirit. I always enjoyed a chat with her. She will truly be missed.



Sarah Ngo - October 09, 2017 at 08:28 PM



“ I always loved working with Joan at SCH. I admired her perseverance to keep on working even though she must have felt terrible some days. She told me that she wanted to make life as normal as possible. Joan never complained. RIP Joan.

*Karla Cool*

Karla Olson Cool - October 09, 2017 at 07:33 PM

CS

“ *Cathy Sigler lit a candle in memory of Joan L. Willenbring*



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**Cathy Sigler** - October 09, 2017 at 06:59 PM

AS

“ *I worked with Joanie for many years at St. Cloud hospital when I was a PCA in the float pool!! She was the most kind and loving lady. She was a awesome nurse. I now have the pleasure of working with her twin sister Jeanie who shares her same kindness and beauty. My thoughts and prayers are with you all Jeanie. I am so sorry... May God Bless you and give you strength in the coming days! ❤️❤️*



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**Audra Stangl** - October 09, 2017 at 06:55 PM

DT

“ *Sandy, my heart and prayers are with you. My deepest condolences to you and the family.*



*Diana*

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**Diana Trettel** - October 09, 2017 at 02:43 PM