



Jacqueline M. Viljanen

February 28, 1940 - June 8, 2020

Jacqueline M. Viljanen, 80, of Standish, passed away peacefully surrounded by her children on June 8, 2020. Jacqueline was born on February 28, 1940 to parents Robert and Ella Croughwell in Pittsfield, MA.

Jackie graduated from St. Joseph High School in Pittsfield, MA in 1957. After high school she attended Elms College in Chicopee, MA graduating cum laude in 1961 with her bachelor's degree, majoring in chemistry with a minor in math and education.

On May 23, 1964 Jackie married Kurt Viljanen of Dragsfjärd, Finland and raised three children together. In her working years, Jacqueline worked as an analytical chemist at P.J. Schweitzer in Lee, MA where she met her husband Kurt, who was also a chemist.

After marrying, Jackie and her husband moved to Finland where she was a research chemist at Tervakoski Paper in Tervakoski, Finland and editor/proof reader for English language sales brochures in Finland. After all their children were born they moved back to the US, where she later became a math teacher at Milford Middle School; and an adult education teacher for math and technical writing, in New Hampshire.

Jackie enjoyed spending most all of her time volunteering at many places in New Hampshire and Maine. Recently she was an active member of St. Anne's Parish in Gorham, ME. She was also active in the Church Bereavement Committee, prison ministry work, and was a Eucharistic Minister at The Inn at Village Square, the Gorham House and the Scarborough Maine Veteran's Home. She regularly donated items to the Amistad House whose residents often referred to her as the "pie lady" who baked and gathered up to 50 pies to Amistad House during Thanksgiving each year.

Jackie is survived by her son, Pat; daughter, Kristina and husband Matt Sabasteanski; grandchildren, Kurt, Alek and Larson; Kristian, Teegan; Boden and Finley; sister Jill Simonds; niece Danielle and husband Tom O'Connor and son Tyler, as well as all the Viljanen family in Finland. She is predeceased by her parents; her husband, Kurt; her sister, Roberta Brown; her son, Erik Viljanen and her niece Jennifer Brown.

Jackie will be remembered for her selfless and giving personality, her strong independence and family connections, living simply and content, and for her Swedish Bulla on Christmas morning. She lived by one of her favorite quotes, "Do what they think you can't do".

A Memorial Mass will be held at St. Anne's in Gorham with a date and time to be announced later this summer. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Amistad - 66 State St # 2, Portland, ME 04101, or St. Anne's Catholic Church -299 Main St, Gorham, ME 04038 -

Comments



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Kristina Sabasteanski - June 26 at 06:41 PM



“ Rob Poissant sent a virtual gift in memory of Jacqueline M. Viljanen



Rob Poissant - June 20 at 07:23 PM



“ I became a friend of hers going to morning Mass at St Anne's. She was a remarkable woman. She will be missed.

Michael Kennedy - June 15 at 06:08 PM



“ Jaqui was a great prison minister. When there was an open spot she would fill it with herself. Giving encouragement and selfless love. My heart joins with you in grief for her passing. I know she is with the Lord. She will be greatly missed.



Blanca Lytle - June 15 at 12:15 PM



“ Rob Poissant lit a candle in memory of Jacqueline M. Viljanen



Rob Poissant - June 14 at 08:14 AM



“ Yvonne Graffam lit a candle in memory of Jacqueline M. Viljanen



Yvonne Graffam - June 14 at 06:18 AM



“ I was heartbroken to hear the news about Jackie's passing. Jackie was such a humble woman. I thought the world of her. She was not one to say much, however, her actions spoke volumes. Kindness followed her wherever she went. I remember one time she shared with me that when she was in high school, a teacher told her not to set her sights too high for college because she wasn't too bright! Although it hurt her, she told me it was good for her to hear that because it only motivated her more to excel.

Excel she did! I had no idea all that she accomplished. Again, she was ever so humble. St. Anne's will miss her. She practically ran morning mass all by herself. The tireless work and countless hours she put in for the church. I remember her little dog she took with her in the car. I know my life is a little more meaningful just to have known her and to be able to call her friend. Godspeed Jackie, I can hear the good Lord now saying, "come on in my good and faithful servant"!!

Yvonne

Yvonne Graffam - June 14 at 06:35 AM



“ Prayers for Jackie and family. Remember Jackie from our times of sharing especially as we made visits to Gorham House and the Inn at the Village. Continue to visit and be a Eucharistic minister to the same residents. Jackie shared compassion, care, and love to each resident.

Will let the residents know off Jackie, and will continue in the same ministry of love.

Remember our phone conversations, and being with Jackie (as a volunteer Pastoral visitor at St. Joseph's manor) where Jackie was rehabilitating.

Grateful for the friendship we shared in our ministry to others.

Rob Poissant - June 14 at 08:09 AM



“ The Cottage Residents and Amistad will miss Jackie for all that she did for them. At Amistad they called her the Church Lady. She was greatly Loved by all!!

Cottage Residents - June 17 at 09:06 AM