



Mrs. Joan A. Lillie

May 16, 1934 - December 15, 2024

Joan Ann Lillie (West) passed into eternity on Dec. 15 surrounded by loved ones in Great Barrington, Mass. She was 90.

Joan, known affectionately as Joanie to friends and family, was born in Cummington, Mass. on May 16, 1934, and lived much of her life in the Berkshires. It was there that she raised six children, earned a nursing license, and rarely passed on a good time, be it a night out dancing, a summer excursion to the lake, or family gatherings made sweeter with her desserts and saltier with her quips.

She graduated from Adams High School in 1952 and from Chandler Secretarial School in Boston the following year and later drove a bus for the Concord Public Schools before becoming a licensed practical nurse in her 50s, providing home care services and welcome company to the elderly and disabled.

Joanie loved thick mystery novels, old westerns, and new music: indeed, on road trips she often disdained the hits of her youth in favor of the latest single dominating pop radio. Unbowed by past struggles and untroubled by whatever the future held, she lived constantly in the moment and made the most of it.

Her faith was unwavering. Joanie regularly attended services at Hope Church

in Lenox, took comfort in Scripture, and blithely responded to inquiries about her finances with assurances that “the Lord will provide,” or, “I’m waiting on the Lord anyway.”

But she did not wait idly. Joanie made frequent trips to visit relatives in Texas, North Carolina, Florida and elsewhere, vacationed abroad and floated on the Dead Sea with her sister, and once made the Berkshire Eagle when she was rescued in her late 70s during an ill-fated kayaking jaunt along the Housatonic.

She loved a good cocktail and never hesitated to send it back if it lacked a strong enough kick. She loved browsing flea markets — “tag sales,” in her parlance — with her sisters. She relished bingo nights, weekly hair appointments, and any pretext to dress with pizzazz; her sequined sweater at one granddaughter’s wedding famously left a trail of glitter hovering in midair each time she got up to hit the dance floor.

She is predeceased by one son, US Army Specialist Michael Lillie, and survived by her children Elizabeth Andersen of Cranston, R.I.; Christopher Lillie of Lee, Mass.; JoAnn Lillie of Matthews, N.C.; John Lillie of Charlotte, N.C.; and Suzanne Marrocco of Springfield, Mass.; as well as many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Joanie is also predeceased by her siblings Marceline Lanoue, Mary Snyder, Claire Thorne, Richard West, and Edward West.

A visitation is scheduled for Thursday evening from 5-7p at the Roche Funeral Home at 120 Main St. in Lenox, followed by a funeral service on Friday morning at Hope Church beginning at 10a, located at 259 Kemble St.

She will be laid to rest next to her son at Mountain View Cemetery in Lenox,

though it's certain her adventuresome, fun-loving spirit will live on.

Among Joanie's many adages was one delivered as a family cookout wound down: "You go through life, you work really hard, and if you're lucky, you get a couple vacations. And I've had some really great vacations."

Cemetery Details

Mountain View Cemetery

Housatonic Street
Lenox, MA 01240

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **19**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Roche Funeral Home
120 Main Street
P.O. Box 152
Lenox, MA 01240
(413) 637-0699
eroche120fh@gmail.com

Service

DEC **20**. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (ET)

Hope Church
259 Kemble Street
Lenox, MA 01240

Burial

DEC **20**. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Mountain View Cemetery
Housatonic Street
Lenox, MA 01240

Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Joan A. Lillie.

December 19, 2024 at 02:02 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Mrs. Joan A. Lillie.



December 18, 2024 at 07:58 PM



“ Kathy and Buzzy purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mrs. Joan A. Lillie.



Kathy and Buzzy - December 18, 2024 at 12:48 PM



“ Kathy and Buzzy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Joan A. Lillie.

Kathy and Buzzy - December 18, 2024 at 12:48 PM

SM

“ Scott & Suzanne Lillie Marrocco purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mrs. Joan A. Lillie.



Scott & Suzanne Lillie Marrocco - December 18, 2024 at 07:17 AM

SM

“ Scott & Suzanne Lillie Marrocco planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Joan A. Lillie.

Scott & Suzanne Lillie Marrocco - December 18, 2024 at 07:17 AM

SF

“ Stevie, Emily and family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mrs. Joan A. Lillie.



Stevie, Emily and family - December 18, 2024 at 06:57 AM

SF

“ Stevie, Emily and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Joan A. Lillie.

Stevie, Emily and family - December 18, 2024 at 06:57 AM

JS

“ *My husband and I were fortunate enough to know Joan as a neighbor for many years, and we always enjoyed her bright-eyed smile and good natured conversation. My mother and Joan were good friends, and Joan was a godsend to us when Mom was terminally ill, making her many wonderful meals and visiting nearly daily. Joan was a warm, lovely woman and she is very much missed, but her bright light will long be remembered.*

Jackie and Frank Salvaggio - December 17, 2024 at 06:14 PM

TA

“ *The Thorne Family, et al. purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Mrs. Joan A. Lillie.*



The Thorne Family, et al. - December 17, 2024 at 11:32 AM