



Janis Carol Carpenter

May 5, 2016

Obituary of Janis Carpenter

Janis (Jan) Carol Watkins Carpenter, 73, of The Villages, in Florida, was called home from her role here on earth to eternity in heaven on Monday, May 2, 2016. She passed away after a 3-1/2 year struggle with ovarian cancer.

Jan was known for her ability to live life to the fullest. Her priorities in life were the love of God, family and others. Jan never met a challenge she could not address and she did it with vigor, empathy, and joy.

Raised in Griffith, Indiana, Jan graduated from Griffith High School. She continued her education with both a Bachelors and Masters in Education from Ball State University. Upon graduation she was an elementary teacher in the Highland and Griffith School systems for thirty-three years. Then she taught graduate education courses for Indiana Wesleyan University.

Jan was involved in a multitude of activities. She created exceptional floral gardens which sometimes were featured in Crown Point Garden Walks. She earned the designation of Master Gardener, was an instructor and owned a landscaping design company. Jan was involved with the Kairos Prison Ministry and was a team member for the Great Banquet Organization. At First Presbyterian Church in Crown Point, she participated in the choir, bell choir,

served as a deacon, an elder, and organized "get-acquainted" groups.

In September 2008, Jan and husband Gene, moved to The Villages in Florida. Jan dove into this new setting with characteristic vigor. She was in the Welcome Committee for Aberdeen Run, their new neighborhood. She completed the Florida Master Gardener program. She was an active member of North Lake Presbyterian Church and participated in organizing the small group ministry. Jan loved singing in "Belle Tones" and "Sisters in Harmony". Golfing with friends, game nights, and Starbucks gatherings were frequent occurrences. One of her favorite things was her "Disney Diva" group that made many trips, in coordinating outfits, to visit Mickey. Jan taught herself how to make countless balloon creations delighted in giving them away. Jan was also known as "Jingles" the clown.

Jan is survived and will be greatly missed by her husband of 31 years Gene Carpenter and children: Holly (Bonifacio) Avila, grandson Bonifacio (Cheyenne) Avila and great-grandson Anthony (Anderson, IN); Heather Rice (TX); Stepson Bill (Janet) Carpenter (Columbus, OH) and grandchildren: Megan, Nathan, Shosh and Harry; stepdaughter Vicki Sitz (Fort Wayne, IN); daughter Kimberly (Max) Dysh and children: Erika, Vanessa, Kyle, Micah, Isaac and Allison (Freeport, FL); her sister Joan (Dr. Carl) Voyles and nephew Erik Abrahamson (Anna Maria, Florida); her brother Don (Irene) Watkins (Dyer, IN) and niece Amanda. Over the years Jan was host mother to five Rotary foreign exchange students, one of which continued as part of the family: Jennifer (Stephen van Gulck) Birkett and children: Julian and Romane (Brussels, Belgium). She was preceded in death by her parents, Bertha (Seifert) Watkins and Clayton Watkins.

Two memorial services are planned: Tuesday, May 10 - 9:30 am - First Presbyterian Church of Crown Point, Indiana Thursday, May 19 - 11:00 am - North Lake Presbyterian Church of The Villages, Florida, Memorial donations

can be made to: Cornerstone Hospice and Palliative Care, 601 Casa Bella,
The Villages, FL 32162.

"When you were born, you were crying and everyone around you was smiling.
Live your life so at the end, you will be the one smiling and everyone around
you is crying." Quote by Jordan Smith

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home and Crematory, Lady Lake,
FL Online condolences may be left at www.BeyersFuneralHome.com

Tribute Wall

ER

“ Gene, I'm sorry for your loss and Jan was a wonderful woman. I have very fond memories of all the Ellendale neighborhood Christmas parties hosted in your home and caroling around the neighborhood. Jan was always prepared with the best holiday crafts for us kids to make! I find myself drawing on those memories now for my own job with our campus Christmas celebration and creating fun crafts for the children of our alumni, faculty, and staff to make. Prayers for you and your family during this difficult time.

Elizabeth (Lewis) Riffert - May 09, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ Jan was a wonderful neighbor in Crown Point. She was always so welcoming & friendly. She & Gene would host the neighbor Christmas party every year. It is an important part of our kids childhood memories. Gene, may you find comfort in your memories. Jan you will be missed.

Randy & Mary Jane Lewis - May 09, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ We've known Jan since she was a college student at Ball State. It was exciting working with her when she was teaching at Franklin Elementary School in Griffith. She never backed down from a challenge and did her best to involve as many others in her ideas as possible. She was seldom ever seen without her smile and cheerful attitude. She involved herself in more creative endeavors than one can imagine, and always seemed successful in whatever the endeavor was. We know she will be missed by anyone whose life she touched. She will long live in our memories. Our good thoughts are extended to Gene, her family, and her countless friends. Carl and Eunice Booker

Carl and Eunice Booker - May 06, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BK

“*###GESTURE###*

Bonnie Klein - May 05, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BK

“*Jan was a remarkable woman that I will be forever grateful I could call my friend. Jan brightened the day and lives of all of us fortunate enough to have walked in her world of Love, Laughter, and a zest for Life equalled by none. Her light will never go out but be carried inside of all of us that knew her.*

Bonnie Klein - May 05, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BK

“*Janis Carol Carpenter*

Bonnie Klein - May 05, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SM

“*My deepest sympathies to all of the Carpenter family. Gene, I can't begin to fathom your loss. Jan always saw you as her "knight in shining armor." As spring blossoms, I'll remember Jan with prayer. Heaven is a more joyful place with Jan's presence.*

Susan J. Moreno - May 05, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“*Janis Carol Carpenter*

May 04, 2016 at 12:00 AM