

*Hail Mary,
Full of Grace,
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now,
and at the hour of our death.
Amen.*



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Celebrating THE LIFE OF



JOAN REIS MILLER

January 6, 1930 ~ November 29, 2020

Footprints in the Sand

One night I dreamed a dream.

As I was walking along the beach with my Lord,
across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in
the sand, one belonging to me and one to my
Lord. After the last scene of my life flashed before
me, I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my
life, especially at the very lowest and saddest
times, there was only one set of footprints.
This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about
it. "Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
You'd walk with me all the way. But I noticed that
during the saddest and most troublesome times of
my life, there was only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why, when I needed You the
most, You would leave me." He whispered,
"My precious child, I love you and will never leave
you, never, ever, during your trials and testings.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
it was then that I carried you."

Joan Reis Miller of Little Rock, AR died peacefully on November 29, 2020 with her husband by her side. Joanie was born January 6, 1930 to George and Catherine Reis in Pittsburgh, PA. She was preceded in death by her parents and four siblings, Margaret, Thomas, Jack and Helen.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 68 years, Robert E. Miller, Jr.; her four children, Helen McCune, Robert (Laura) Miller, Margaret (John) Dykstra, Anne (Jeff) Simmermaker; eight grandchildren, Brian (Leah) McCune, Maggie McCune (Alex) Berger, Katie Dykstra (Nick) Cecconi, Jack Dykstra, Joanie Simmermaker (Brandon) Wells, Tom Simmermaker, Ellen and Lucy Miller; five great-grandchildren, Riley, Reis, Collin, Hayley and Isla; and other extended family and friends.

She was raised in Indianapolis and was a proud alumna of St. Joan of Arc grade school and Shortridge H.S. She graduated from Indiana University and was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. It was at IU where she met Bob and they began their lifelong union. She was chosen as "Sweetheart of Sigma Chi," an accolade she cherished.

Her devotion to her husband and his career with Mead Paper Corp. led to many homes throughout her life. Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Birmingham, MI, Hinsdale, IL, Kettering, OH, Apopka, FL and Little Rock, AR were all stops along the way.

She adored her faith and her family. As it was said during her last rites, Joanie prepared her entire life for this moment. She was a loving mother who was always there. Whether it was making a warm breakfast before school, being at bedside after surgery, or driving carpools, she was the rock of her family. After surviving a major stroke 23 years ago, she fought to regain mobility. Nineteen years later she was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer. She said, "Let's fight it." She did and beat the odds again! She enjoyed her final years staying involved in the lives of her children and grandchildren.

Joanie was known for her gregarious personality. It was always fun to be around her, and all who knew her were blessed!

Memorials may be made to: CARTI, a not-for-profit, comprehensive cancer center with treatment facilities located throughout Arkansas, P.O. Box 55050, Little Rock, AR 72215, 855-552-2784, ext. 76, <https://carti.ejoinme.org/donate>; St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, <https://www.stjude.org/>; Kindred Hospice, 10800 Financial Centre Pkwy #380, Little Rock, AR 72211, (501) 223-8868, kindredhospicefaq.com; or her church, Christ the King Catholic Church, Endowment Fund, 4000 N Rodney Parham Rd, Little Rock, AR 72212, (501) 225-6774, <https://www.cklir.org/>.

Due to Covid-19, a private service will be held for family only. Online guestbook at www.smithfamilycares.com.