

Joan Marie Longhenry was born on May 16th, 1970, in Ortonville, MN to Jerry and Anne (Ninneman) Longhenry. She was baptized at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Nassau, MN and confirmed at Hazel Run Lutheran Church in Hazel Run, MN. She graduated from Clarkfield High School and went on to earn her bachelor's degree from Minnesota State University—Mankato under a discus and shotput scholarship, for which she was naturally gifted at and went to state for. Having been raised with four brothers, she could hold her own and wasn't afraid to get rough and tough with the boys.

After graduation, Joan spent ten years at Valleyfair in Shakopee managing all the park's food stands, a job that brought people from countries all over the globe into her life, fostering lifelong friendships for which she traveled as far as Lithuania to visit. After spending time in a variety of endeavors in Mankato after her years at Valleyfair, Joan settled into her most recent careers at Micro Dynamics in Montevideo and teaching at the school in Dawson.

Joan cherished her family, particularly her daughters and grandchildren, and was the organizational force behind the Longhenry family reunions. She loved babies, plants, drawing and coloring, and could have an honorary degree in criminal justice after watching all 19 seasons of NCIS multiple times over. Joan was also a dice aficionado and will be remembered for her infamous mantra "Don't touch my dice!"

On Monday, July 11th, 2022, at the age of 52, Joan passed away surrounded by her family at Prairie Home Fieldcrest in Cottonwood after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. She is preceded in death by her father, Jerry Longhenry; paternal grandparents, William & Violet Longhenry; maternal grandparents, George & Lillian Ninneman; uncles, Lyle and David Longhenry, and an aunt, Betty Veillgux.

Joan is survived by her daughters, Jackie & Julianna Overton, and Isabella Longhenry; mother, Anne (Lawrence) Schmieg; grandchildren, Janeah Anderson, Ja'Khari Anderson, and Ja'Zear Overton; brothers, Gerald (Dotty), James (Keri), Jon (Deb), and Jay (Kelly) Longhenry; aunts, Naomi (Dave) Ernst, Vidella Parks, and Dorothy (Larry) Thompson; uncles, Danny (Sue) Ninneman, Roger (Nancy) Longhenry, and Wayne (Amy) Longhenry, and a large extended family whom she treasured.

In Loving Memory



Joan Marie Longhenry

1970 ~ 2022

I'm Free

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took his hand when I heard his call,
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the close of the day.
If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My Life's been full, I savoured much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch,
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free.*



In Memory of

Joan Marie Longhenry

May 16, 1970



July 11, 2022

Funeral Service

Clarkfield Lutheran Church

Clarkfield, Minnesota

Thursday, July 14th, 2022

11 AM

Officiant

Vicar Mort Meyenburg

Eulogist

David Ernst

Casketbearers

Steve Longhenry

Paul Longhenry

Scott Longhenry

Samuel Longhenry

Shawn Longhenry

Dakota Ramos

Interment

Yellow Bank Cemetery—Rural Odessa, Minnesota

A note from Joan...

Wow, I am overwhelmed by all the support love and kindness I have received in just over a week. I used to think a lot about if I made a difference ~ the answer is yes! It took 50+ years to figure out but I now feel that I mattered. I am loved and people are awesome. How lucky I am to have the family friends and community that I do. I am so thankful for everything everyone has done for myself and my family.