



Joyce Niemeier Sanders

July 12, 1950 - October 31, 2014

Joyce (Cook) Niemeier Sanders, age 64, affectionately known as “Meme” to her children and grandchildren, was tragically taken from this life by a hit and run driver in Sarasota, FL on October 31, 2014.

Joyce was born in Kansas but moved to Evansville, IN early in her life and graduated from Harrison High School in 1968. Joyce was doing what she loved, walking outside in the area where she had just moved to two weeks earlier, to complete another of her lifelong dreams. Joyce was a shining beacon of energy, joy and love for all who were lucky enough to be even a small part of her life.

Joyce retired from Bristol Myers’ Mead Johnson division in 2005 after more than 25 years of service. She loved walking, dancing, traveling, reading, playing cards and too many other things to list, but most of all she loved her family and spending time with family and friends. Joyce was a longtime member of Holy Rosary Catholic Church.

She is survived by her husband Jim Sanders; daughter, Amy Niemeier and son, Fred Niemeier, both of Evansville; grandchildren, Ashlyn, Madison, Michael and Emerson Niemeier and Blake Meier; step granddaughter, Holly (Michael) Tyring and step great grandsons, Aidan and Jace Tyring; sister, Cindy (Ron) Mills; half-sister, Gina Shatara; cousins, Sandy (Jim) Winiger,

Dave Wilder and her best friend, Mary Patterson. She is also survived by the many family and friends too numerous to mention whom she loved very much.

Joyce was preceded in death by her mother, Dorothy Cook Shatara and her husband, Jim Niemeier.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, November 7, 2014 at Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Rev. Bernie Etienne officiating. Burial will take place in Oak Hill Cemetery at a later time.

Friends may visit with the family from 1:00 until 8:00 P.M. on Thursday at Pierre Funeral Home, 2601 W. Franklin Street, where there will be a memorial service conducted by the church at 4:00 P.M. Friends may also visit with the family from 9:30 A.M. until service time on Friday at Holy Rosary.

Memorial contributions may be made to Holy Rosary Catholic Church

Cemetery Details

Oak Hill Cemetery

1400 E. Virginia Street
Evansville, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 6. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Pierre Funeral Home
2601 West Franklin Street
Evansville, IN

Visitation

NOV 7. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Holy Rosary Catholic Church
Green River Road
Evansville, IN

funeral

NOV 7. 10:00 AM (CT)

Holy Rosary Catholic Church
Green River Road
Evansville, IN

Tribute Wall



“ *Joyce Niemeier Sanders*

January 16, 2023 at 06:53 PM



“ *Jim, I was so sorry to hear about Joyce's tragic death. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Deb Tremont*

Deb Tremont - November 12, 2014 at 12:54 PM



“ *Joyce was a very good neighbor to my mother. She was always thoughtful and kind. When she was making something in her kitchen, she brought over some for my mom. I know my mom thought very highly of Joyce, because she always took time to say "hi".*

I also enjoyed visiting with Joyce on many occasions. When our kids were younger, we took a few dips in the pool. She always came out and visited with us. Thanks to Joyce for showing our family so much kindness and thoughtfulness. You will be missed. My sympathies to the family and to Cindy, my high school classmate.
Karen Schlosser

Karen Schlosser - November 07, 2014 at 06:11 PM

“ *My tribute to Joyce at her memorial service.....*

Part of me feels inadequate to talk about Joyce to everyone here because she was a friend of mine for such a short time as compared to many of you in this room. I know some of those friendships span 40 years or more. That was one great thing about Joyce – once you were a part of her family or one of her friends – you held that place for life. She didn't change the love in her heart for you because of a change in life's circumstances. She had a heart big enough and enough love inside her to cover everyone – that's why we are all here today.

My friendship with Joyce started 14 years ago in this funeral home. Back then, we were in an early morning aerobics class at the old MJ fitness center and would chit chat in the locker room with the other women after class. One February morning Joyce wasn't in class and we were told that her husband had died suddenly the day before. My heart ached for her even though I didn't know her very well. I went to the funeral home for visitation to express my sympathy....and that's when our friendship began....and my life has never been the same!

I would say that our friendship started slowly but we all know that nothing was slow with Joyce. In the beginning, I was a little confused and overwhelmed with all the things she wanted us to do. She had so many ideas and plans....she was constant motion. At times, I felt like part of my space was being invaded by this woman I barely knew, but soon realized I was seeing the passion and energy Joyce brought to everything she did.

Joyce dreamed, lived, and loved BIG! No limitations! No obstacles! No regrets! No looking back! Life was too short to waste time. And if you were willing, she would take you with her. If you weren't, then move out of her way cuz she was going without you.

Joyce, There are some things I want to thank you for...

Thanks for bringing Dave into my life...and then Jim into our lives... we have had so much fun together. The two of you were beautiful together. A marriage relationship everyone would want.

Thanks for all the good meals you cooked for us – especially your coconut cake

Thanks for all the fun trips that the four of us took together – 34 states in all – and all the girlfriend trips and boating adventures. Thanks for cramming into an RV with us for my bucket list trip - and running with me when the buffalo started after us. Oh yes, the boys moved to the safe side of the car.

Thanks for all the talks we had and all of our problems we solved or thought we solved as we walked and walked and walked....

Thanks for all of your plans that became our plans, all of your dreams that became our dreams – whether we wanted them to or not. You were the planner, the one with all the ideas, the one that pushed us to do more.

Thanks for laughing with me and at me – even at times I might not have been so funny.

Thanks for being my card partner and for the competitiveness you brought to our hundreds of weekly Hand and Foot games – not unmatched by Dave though in the competitiveness area. Just to set the record straight for everyone – the girls were the champions in 2012, the boys in 2013. In 2014, the girls were ahead 12 games with 2 months to go. Unfortunately, we all lost when we lost you.

Thanks for being my best friend and loving me in your special way...for all the memories. I'm going to miss you so much! But I challenge everyone to follow your example – to dream big and make your dreams a reality....don't take no for an answer....don't have regrets for things you wanted to do but never did....live like Joyce!

My dearest friend, I know you are on a beautiful beach, in the warmth of the Sun, reading a book, with your toes in the sand.... as well as in the presence of God....never to be cold again. I love you!

Mary Patterson - November 07, 2014 at 07:10 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joyce Niemeier Sanders.*



November 06, 2014 at 09:16 PM



“ *Basket of Joy was purchased for the family of Joyce Niemeier Sanders.*



November 06, 2014 at 08:04 PM



“ *Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Joyce Niemeier Sanders.*



November 06, 2014 at 07:35 PM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Joyce Niemeier Sanders.*



November 06, 2014 at 09:48 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Joyce Niemeier Sanders.*



November 05, 2014 at 12:24 PM



“ *I remember Joyce from working with her at Mead Johnson I started working in 1987. Joyce was always kind to me. She was always in good shape too. I'm praying for you and your family and for strength for each day.*

Rebekah Thomas

Rebekah Thomas - November 05, 2014 at 09:00 AM



Thank you

Jim Sanders - November 05, 2014 at 02:19 PM



“ *Jim, Amy and Fred,
I will always remember Joyce's smile and loving energy. She was a joy to be around. I went to many parties with my parents at her house growing up. She always called me Betsy Basket. I also got the pleasure to see her around Bristol Myers for the few months I worked there with her and my mom. I will miss her. I hope her and my mom are having a drink together now.
May the good memories help you through these very hard times.*

Elizabeth Griffin - November 05, 2014 at 07:09 AM



Thank you. She thought a lot of your family too.

Jim Sanders - November 05, 2014 at 02:20 PM

BB

“ *Joyce has always been a good friend and a first class lady. We always enjoyed talking with her and counted her as one of our special friends. She will be missed by all those who knew her. Jim, Amy, and Fred, you and your families will be in our prayers in the coming days and months and may you find that peace that surpasses all understanding.*

Bill and Donna Bennett

Bill Bennett - November 04, 2014 at 07:41 PM



Thank you very much

Jim Sanders - November 04, 2014 at 07:52 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Joyce Niemeier Sanders.*



November 04, 2014 at 02:34 PM

JR

“ *To Amy & Fred, my childhood and lifelong friends: My heart is so heavy for you. I will lift you and your families in prayer always.*
Jenny (Willem) Rogers

Jenny Rogers - November 04, 2014 at 12:16 PM

LM

“ I can't believe that we won't be walking the beach in Florida (and racing to see who could read the most books), or boating on the Ohio "Boat Crew" or going to Kentucky Lake, or going to "Moon Over The Ohio" without you being a part of everything! What a wonderful, compassionate woman!

Rest In Peace our dear, dear friend! We will love you always!

Lana, Norwanda, Karen, Kathy, Ev, Debbie, Jerry, Faye and Janie

Lana Marvel - November 04, 2014 at 11:30 AM



She loved you all very much. Thank you.

Jim Sanders - November 04, 2014 at 07:51 PM

BF

“ We were introduced to Joyce & Jim in January 2013 while celebrating her sister Cindy's birthday. She was all smiles that night, very sweet & welcoming to us. Her beautiful smile will be what I remember about her. The next time we play the card game, "Hand & Foot", we will think of her with a smile. Our hearts go out to Jim, Cindy, Ron & the rest of her family.

With sympathy,

Gerry & Brenda Fuchs

brenda fuchs - November 03, 2014 at 05:08 PM



Thank you very much. I will never forget her smile either.

Jim Sanders - November 04, 2014 at 07:53 PM

PW

Joyce and I joined Holy Rosary together. She was a dear friend, who always lit up my day when I'd see her at church and exercise class. She was a lovely example of overcoming sadness and finding happiness again. I will miss her.

Peggy Weigele

Peggy Weigele - November 05, 2014 at 08:45 AM

CJ

Jim and family, It's so hard to believe that Joyce is no longer with us. What a life she compacted into her 64 years on this earth. May God grant you peace and understanding during this most difficult time. May you always remember her zest for life, energy in life, and the kindness and joy in life she brought to others.

Cindy L. Jarrett

Cindy L Jarrett - November 06, 2014 at 11:35 AM

SW

I was so saddened to hear of Joyce's recent passing. Although I have been living in Pennsylvania for over 40 years, I was so fortunate to spend time with Joyce whenever our "Harper Grade School" group got together or we attended a Harrison High School class reunion. Joyce was the most vibrant, fun-loving and caring person- she lit up any room she entered! I know her family and friends must be missing her terribly and my heart goes out to them. May you find peace in knowing that she touched so many people and she will never be forgotten.

Sally Fulford Wood

Sally F. Wood - November 10, 2014 at 10:06 AM