



JOAN GILLETTE ROKUS

JUN 24, 1933 - DEC 9, 2022



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JOAN GILLETTE ROKUS

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Joan Gillette Rokus, 89, died peacefully in the shadow of the town and the county she adored on December 9, 2022. An avid tennis player and sports enthusiast, her courageous fight was inspiring to the end.

A service of celebration will be held Tuesday, December 27, 2022 at 11:00 AM, at Leesburg United Methodist Church, 107 W Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia.

Joan was born on June 24, 1933, in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Barbara Stinson and Phil G. Gillette. She was a graduate of Penn State University where she was a member of the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. She earned her master's degree from West Chester University.

Joan was beloved by her daughters, Jennifer Rokus Heath and Lori Rokus. She believed travel was the most important part of a person's education and Joan traveled the world with her family and friends, including favorite trips to Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Argentina, Kenya and through the Panama Canal on the QE II. She is survived also by her sisters, Marilyn Knauer (David), and Carol Hughes (Charles), and her nieces and nephews, Renée Witherspoon (Terry), Suzette MacKey (John), Barbra Daniel, Gordon Schiring (Cathy), Sean Hughes (Laura), and Darin Hughes. Her brother, Gordon Gillette (Margie), preceded her in death.

Joan taught physical education at Keuka College in New York's Finger Lakes, Susquehanna University and West Chester University in Pennsylvania, public schools throughout Loudoun County and Foxcroft School in Middleburg. Later she was the administrator for the veterinary practice of her former husband, William S. Rokus. Combining her educational degrees with her personal tennis achievement of reaching the highest USTA rating sanctioned at Loudoun Indoor Tennis Club, she also taught tennis for several years at Northern Virginia Community College. Joan was president of the Catocin Elementary PTA and later served as the president of the Northern Virginia District PTA Council. Her keen interest in the environment



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and wildlife led her to the presidency of Keep Loudoun Beautiful where she brought attention to removing litter from not just roadways, but also waterways by initiating the first annual creek cleanup via canoes on scenic Goose Creek.

During her 2-term tenure as a Loudoun County Supervisor for the Leesburg District, Joan served as the Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors as well as chair of various committees: Council of Governments, Economic Development, and Commission for Women. She was the first woman to be elected as a Loudoun County Supervisor for the Leesburg District. Joan was recognized for her work on historic preservation and parks, including Temple Hall, Aldie Mill and Mount Zion Church. For many years, she presided over the annual Arbor Day ceremonies.

Among a number of significant boards and commissions, Joan represented Loudoun County on the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority for 23 years and served on the National Recreation and Parks Association Board of Trustees for nine years, as an Honorary Board Member for the Salvation Army, and the Thomas Balch Library Advisory Board for many years. She was named 1999 Loudoun Times-Mirror Citizen of the Year and 1993 Person of the Year from the Leesburg Daybreak Rotary Club.

Joan belonged to the Junior Women's Club of Loudoun until she "aged out" into the Women's Club of Loudoun. She was member of the Kettoctin Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and served on the Advisory Committee of the Patriot Project. A lifelong dog lover, she raised Jack Russell terriers each of whom were mischievous and devoted.

For those who choose to send memorials, the family requests consideration of Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA)

<https://www.cfnova.org/donate/nova-parks-fund> or Friends of Loudoun County Animal Services (FLCAS) <https://www.flcas.org>.

Share condolences with the family www.LoudounFuneralChapel.com




Events

JOAN GILLETTE ROKUS

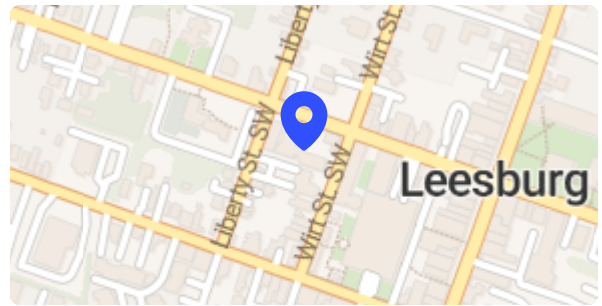
JUN 24, 1933 - DEC 9, 2022

Service

 **Tuesday**, December 27, 2022

 11:00 AM ET

 **Leesburg United Methodist Church**
107 W Market St., Leesburg VA 20176





Tribute Wall

JOAN GILLETTE ROKUS

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Liz Gaskill Horton posted:

My sincere condolences.

December 27 at 6:08 PM



Anonymous sent an Enchanted Cottage to the ROKUS family.



December 27 at 5:05 AM



Margie Gillette sent a Beautiful in Blue to the ROKUS family.



December 23 at 12:44 PM



Anthony Fasolo posted:

Jennifer and Lori, I first met your mother when she was on the Loudoun Board of Supervisors. So sorry for your loss. She was a true Public Servant and was always ready to listen and act in the Public Interest. Proud to know that she was also a Penn State grad as I am. She will be missed for sure but all the good things she did in Life lives after her. Rest in Peace Joan.

December 23 at 7:12 AM



Jerry And Alice Gillette Weiner sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the ROKUS family.



December 22 at 5:14 PM



Anonymous sent a Magnificent Life Spray to the ROKUS family.



December 21 at 2:39 AM



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KB

Kirby Bowers posted:

I had the privilege of working with Joan when I served as County Administrator. She was dedicated to public service, honest, bright and demonstrated in an exemplary manner the highest ethical standards of conduct as an elected official. More important she became a good friend and would always ask about my family and particularly my two sons. She was a giving person. My condolences to her family. My she rest in God's eternal peace. Kirby Bowers (former Loudoun County Administrator)

December 20 at 5:33 AM

FR

Frankie Sutherland Rust posted:

I enjoyed working with Joan when she was on the Board of Supervisor and I was an employee with the Loudoun County Department of Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services. RIP Joan. Bless you!

December 19 at 3:18 PM

DM

David Miles posted:

Joan was a powerful, yet always gracious, lovely woman, and David and i will miss her longtime counsel and friendship. And, WE ARE PENN STATE, she never let us forget to honor that legacy that Joan and David shared. Dr. David and Melanie Miles, formerly of Leesburg.

December 19 at 12:22 PM

SM

Susan Moxley posted:

Jennifer and Lori, I am so sorry for your loss. Your mom was a great lady. Susan Moxley

December 19 at 9:09 AM

AM

Alexandra Gillette Mcstay posted:

I am so sorry for your loss. I remember Joan fondly. She let me stay with her when I was in college and was visiting and was so much fun. She was a great cousin. My heartfelt condolences and love to you both.

December 19 at 4:55 AM



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Karen Gillette Allen posted:

I remember Joan for her strength! She always knew what she wanted to say and how she wanted to say it! Memories of visiting the farm with my dad, mom, and siblings. May everyone find peace during this difficult time! Karen Gillette Allen

December 18 at 12:32 PM



Anonymous sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the ROKUS family.



December 18 at 12:07 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring JOAN by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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