



Mrs. Jo Ann Miller Russell

July 9, 1943 - December 8, 2018

Jo Ann Russell, a resident of the Hamlet of Pine Bush, passed away suddenly on Saturday, December 8, 2018. She was born in her beloved Vanlue, Ohio on July 9, 1943.

Having grown up on the family farm she graduated from the small rural Vanlue High School in northwest Ohio (which she pronounced OHla). She went on to attend Miami University where, as a trailblazer for women's' basketball, she played for 4 years, graduating in 1965. She was soon after offered a teaching/coaching position with the Pine Bush school system where she once again blazed a new path to travel out of state for her new job. After many successful years there as a Health and Physical Education teacher (including bringing her girls basketball team to three straight championships) she earned her Masters in Guidance & Counseling from Bowling Green State University, became a guidance counselor, eventually moving on to OCCC where she helped and guided transfer students. All the while she ran a thriving Shaklee Health business and helped her husband Joe in the family business, Billings Memorials. She is a two time cancer survivor who always beat the odds through prayer, hope and tenacious perseverance. She taught her children and reminded them constantly, to Never Give Up!

She was a proud farm girl and Buckeye through and through. To those of her family living in Ohio she was always Jo or Little Jo. Not ever JoAnn. Although graduating from Miami University she, like the rest of us, was an avid Ohio State fan. Wherever she was she would try to find the game on TV, often

enlisting anyone within earshot to cheer for our Buckeyes. She split her baseball allegiance to the Indians and Yankees (but we all know she was foremost an Indians fan). She never knew a stranger and would listen to anyone that wanted - or needed - to talk, holding their confidence as closely as anyone ever could. She truly enjoyed hearing about others' lives and getting to know new people. She loved entertaining company and always welcomed any and everyone into "the Cabin" at the Iroquois Hunting and Fishing Club or when she vacationed in TX.

Survivors include her husband, Joe of 52 years; her sons, Jack (Rhiannon), Jerred and his wife, Colleen; her loving and certainly beloved sisters, Drea and her husband, Larry of Tiffin, OH, Myra and her spouse, Mylayne of Columbus, OH; her five grandchildren who she adored and always rooted for, Dylan, Austin, Brooke, Angus, Eagan; and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, Helen and Jack Miller (otherwise known as "G & G") and her brother, Roger.

She will forever be missed as a great wife, a loving mom and grandmother, sister, athlete, coach, woman of strength and a true force of nature. We love you Mom!

A memorial service in her honor will be held at New Prospect Church at 11 a.m. on Friday, December 14, 2018. Followed by a burial at New Prospect Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers please make memorial donations to www.gofundme.com/mance or the Pine Bush Food Pantry located at the Pine Bush Elementary School.

Arrangements are under the direction of Dewitt Martinez Funeral and Cremation Services, 64 Center Street, Pine Bush, NY 12566 845-744-2787. Messages of condolence can be left for the family at www.dewittfh.com

Cemetery Details

New Prospect Cemetery

Pine Bush, NY 12566

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC **14**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

New Prospect Church
2964 NY-52
Pine Bush, NY 12566

Tribute Wall



“ *Martinez Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Jo Ann Miller Russell*



Martinez Funeral Homes - December 12, 2018 at 10:27 AM

BH

“ *I would like to give my condolences to the family. I first met Mrs. Russell while I was in High School in the 60'S and she made gym so good and fun. It was really enjoyable. I also met Mrs. Russell in town and we always said hello. I Believe that .Mrs. Russell is not suffering and was loved by everyone who knew her. I just found out about her passing so i apologize for this message to get to the family. God be with all of the family. Barbara Hulle (Chase). in Wisconsin.*

Barbara Hulle - January 02, 2019 at 08:10 PM

JB

“ I went to Vanlue Local School with JoAnn. She was in the class behind me, being one year younger. She enjoyed playing sports on the playground while in the grades. Sometimes she would play with the boys rather than do the jump rope activities most of the other girls did.

She had a very positive outlook on life and a mischievous bent. I became much closer to her when her 4H club had a hayride. Guess what! She invited me. This was the start of a two year dating relationship that lasted until we both were in college. From college time onward we drifted apart as we were in different universities and majors. We would establish contact with each other from time to time, but the distance, and very different majors (she was in health and physical education and I was trying to become an engineer. After college she took a job in the state of New York, and I ended up in Raleigh, North Carolina. As you might expect we drifted further apart and really lost track of each other.

I do have great memories of our time together at the Vanlue Local School. We sat next to each other in the band. We also per part of a mixed clarinet quartet that won top honors at a musical contest at Bowling Green State University.

I will always treasure my time and activities with JoAnn. May you rest in peace, Jo.

Jerry

Jerry Baughman - December 27, 2018 at 09:52 AM

MM

“ *Jo was an outstanding woman. She will be missed. Joe: so sorry for your loss. To the entire Russell family: may your grief be softened by the many good memories that you have. Marianne Melielo*



Marianne melielo - December 15, 2018 at 11:01 AM

ES

“ *JoAnn's love and wisdom will always remain in our hearts. My deepest sympathy to her family. Love, Eileen Schneller*

Eileen Schneller - December 14, 2018 at 09:06 PM

DS

“ *A wonderful lady. I was mentored by her in High School. I am sorry for your loss Joe. You both have a special place in my memories of Pine Bush.*

Donna Sadler - December 14, 2018 at 09:58 AM

AS

“ *I have fond memories of our families being together at the Peters' Reunions so very many years ago. My Mother, Miriam, and Helen were first cousins. All of you are in my prayers for peace and comfort.*

Alice Saul - December 13, 2018 at 08:10 PM

JD

“ I had the unique experience of having Jo Ann as a Physical Education teacher at Pine Bush while in Middle School and later on we became friends and colleagues at OCCC. She was a wonderful person! She was always a joy to talk with and after her retirement I would occasionally bump into her. She always treated me in her same welcoming manner. I'm saddened that she is no longer with us. Our world lost a great woman. God Bless you all. Sincerely, Joyce Monaco Depew

Joyce M Depew - December 13, 2018 at 02:40 PM

JG

“ So sorry to hear about Jo Ann she and I were cheerleaders her junior year and my senior year, we had such good times. We went to Vanlue School

Janet Shaffer Goodman - December 13, 2018 at 10:05 AM

CF

“ To the family of JoAnn: we are so saddened by the passing of JoAnn. We had just seen her the Tuesday before and had a great time with her and Joe. We were making plans to go to Larry's for dinner. JoAnn will be so dearly missed. Love Joe & Anne Condon & Family.



Condon Family - December 13, 2018 at 05:53 AM

LD

“ I remember hanging out at the house while mom worked or when I stayed home “sick” from school, and Mom didn't want me to stay home alone watching tv all day (haha). No matter the context, I always loved spending time with your family.

Lynn Decker - December 12, 2018 at 09:24 PM

NK


“ I remember when Miss Miller came to PB as our gym teacher. She was just a pretty young girl really, so softspoken and simply nice! And, I remember when she became Mrs. Russell. Long time ago.

Such a lovely obit and nice to hear about her good life with family and interests.

So sorry for your loss -

Sincerely,
Nadine Zobel (Kush)

Nadine Z Kush - December 12, 2018 at 08:26 PM

 Dennis Cahill

“ I stayed at the house in pine bush back in our early years. I believe I met her only once but a feeling of warm family is what I remember! I enjoyed reading about her accomplishments and the way she loved and was loved. My condolences to the family!

Dennis Cahill - December 12, 2018 at 03:30 PM

KI

“ Aunt Jo was one of a kind! She was a loving, funny, smart woman who lived life to its fullest. She was one of the most influential people in my life and a constant source of love, encouragement and laughs.



Kristen Illes - December 12, 2018 at 01:38 PM

CB

“ *Cindy Burkle sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Jo Ann Miller Russell*



Cindy Burkle - December 12, 2018 at 10:06 AM

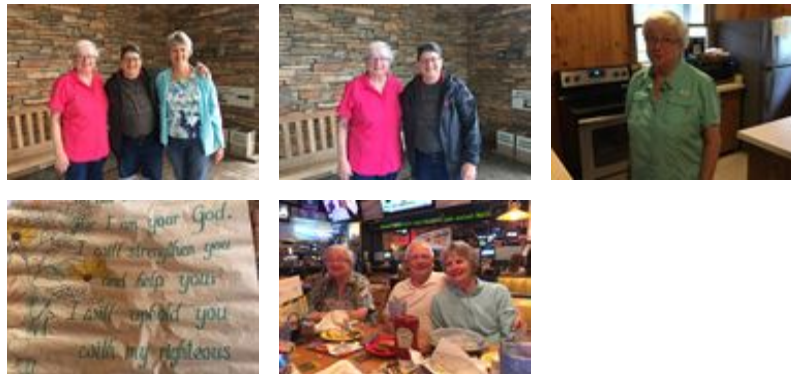
CB

Jo you will be missed you were a big part of the Shuffleboard family. We will always remember Mamma Mia.

Cindy Burkle - December 12, 2018 at 10:08 AM



“ *28 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Martinez Funeral Homes - December 12, 2018 at 09:17 AM



“ *Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White was purchased for the family of Mrs. Jo Ann Miller Russell.*



December 11, 2018 at 11:53 PM



“ *Cherished Memories - All White was purchased for the family of Mrs. Jo Ann Miller Russell.*



December 11, 2018 at 05:59 PM



“ *We are so sorry to hear of your loss. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.*

Jolene, Chris, and Andrew Roy



Jolene Roy - December 11, 2018 at 04:49 PM



“ *Tedd & Edwina Overton lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jo Ann Miller Russell*



Tedd & Edwina Overton - December 11, 2018 at 08:46 AM



I know no words can comfort you during this difficult time. Please know you are in thoughts and prayers. So sorry for your loss. The Overton's

Tedd & Edwina Overton - December 11, 2018 at 08:48 AM

JB

Joe, I was so sorry to hear about Jo Ann. She was such a friendly person and had such a good sense of humor. Although we didn't stay in touch, I will miss her. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family.

Jenifer (Rags) Thompson Brennan

Jenifer Brennan - December 11, 2018 at 04:21 PM

BB

"A true friendship is a journey without an end".....that will be Jo and I FOREVER. NO ONE touch my life as she did, and no one ever will. God Speed my friend.....there is no Good-bye for us, but 'til we meet again ❤️

Barbare Bain - December 16, 2018 at 07:58 AM