



Barbara Jane Keller

September 18, 1943 - November 20, 2011

Jane Keller, 68, went home to be with her Lord and Savior at 6:10 p.m., November 20, 2011 at home, surrounded by her family following a courageous two year battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). She faced this disease with love, grace, and dignity. She was born September 18, 1943 to Fredrick and Elizabeth Banks Pitthan, who preceded her in death. On August 11, 1962 she married the love of her life John A. Keller, who survives in Wapakoneta. They were married for 49 years. Jane was a graduate of Wapakoneta High School, Apollo Vocational Licensed Practical Nursing Program, and Lima Technical College Registered Nursing Program. During her nursing career she was the Director of Nursing at Cridersville Nursing Home for 10 years. She then went on to practice nursing for the Auglaize Family Practice for 18 years. She was a devoted, compassionate, and caring nurse. Jane loved her family and she was a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother. She loved her Lord Jesus with all her heart, soul, and mind and was a member of Shawnee Alliance Church in Lima, Ohio, for 40 years. She had a servant's heart and travelled extensively on missions trips to Mali (Africa), Dominican Republic, and Guatemala. She enjoyed caring for needy children in orphanages and helping to deliver babies at the Koutiala Hospital in Mali. She also went to Waveland, Mississippi, three times to help families with reconstruction from hurricane Katrina. Jane enjoyed the outdoors and was extremely active. She loved cooking, gardening, tandem bicycling with her husband, hiking, fishing, having fellowship with her church small group, and playing cards with her life-time friends in her card club. At the age of 50 she took up downhill and cross country skiing. She loved to ski with her family. She was a certified master gardener, a long time volunteer with the Wapakoneta City Schools, and a member of the Child Conservation League since 1964. Survivors also include her three children, Elizabeth "Beth" (Ross) Kantner of Wapakoneta, Susan (Craig) Niemeyer of Grand Junction, CO, and Paul (Kate) Keller of Indianapolis, IN; five grandchildren, Ryan and Kaitlin Kantner, Tatum and Tristin Niemeyer, and Benjamin Keller; a brother, Fred (Dee) Pitthan, of Rockford, IL; and several nieces, nephews and cousins. Services will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, November 26, 2011 at Shawnee Alliance Church. Burial will be in Greenlawn Cemetery in Wapakoneta. Friends may call 2-4 & 6-8 p.m., Fri. Nov. 25, 2011, at the Bayliff & Eley Funeral Home, St. Rt. 501, Wapakoneta, and 1 hr. prior to the service, Sat.

at the church. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made to The Gideons International, Shawnee Alliance Church building fund, St. Rita's Hospice or the ALS Association of Ohio.

Tribute Wall

R(

“ John i am so sorry for your loss. I know how close you and Jane have been. Just wanted to let you know I was thinking of you.

Rosa Lee Perry (twin) - July 10, 2015 at 03:57 PM

JS

“ John, Beth & Ross: Sue and I apologize that we did not make it to Jane's funueral services, we found out the morning of the funeral. What a wonderful blessing Jane's life was, a reflection of our Lord & Savior. She will be missed by all of you, but what a Homecoming, that day will be when in the presence of the Lord, you will see her again for all eternity praising God. God Bless you all and be courageous.

John & Sue Stiles - July 10, 2015 at 03:57 PM

RG

“ Susan, I am sorry for your troubles and the loss of your mom. I will be praying for you and your family. Rhonda Jeanneret

Rhonda (Jeanneret) Gump - July 10, 2015 at 03:57 PM

AW

“ Were I physically able to be there in person, I certainly would be. I have been experiencing for a week now an, as yet undiagnosed, problem which has left me pretty much bed-ridden. I believe that each of us has a desire to make a difference by the manner in which we live our lives. Jane certainly did that; beginning with the great blessing of knowing that her dearly beloveds each have a relationship with their Lord and Savior, Jesus. Then there was her lifetime of caregiving, both as a career and as a missionary. Jane's life made a great difference both here and now and for all eternity. Blessings as you grieve yet celebrate the joy and victory that is Jane's in the loving arms of her Savior, Alicia and Larry . .

Alicia Winget - July 10, 2015 at 03:57 PM

MK

“ Please know the family is in our thoughts and prayers. How sad for the family and friends on Earth but as our mom recently wrote, "What a happy day it will be when I can enter the gates of Heaven" Knowing she is there along with so many friends and family gives a bit of peace. God Bless you all.

Mary Beth and Ken - July 10, 2015 at 03:57 PM

JM

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Beth, your mom was a wonderful person. She always had a smile and treated everyone with respect and kindness, whether at school or the Dr.s office. I understand how painful it is to lose a parent so young. You wish you could have had many more years with them but that was not God's plan. Take comfort in the memories you have of her and know that she is in a better place, free of suffering. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and all your family.

Jack and Deb Madden - July 10, 2015 at 03:57 PM

BM

“ To John, So very sorry to learn of your sweethearts struggle and passing. Our hearts go out you and your family. Bill & Dee

Bill & Dee Miller - July 10, 2015 at 03:57 PM

PR

“ My prayers are with you all during this time. Mom & Dad constantly kept us kids up to date on how Jane was doing and couldn't have spoken more honorably of her.

Pam Reeder - July 10, 2015 at 03:57 PM

HF

“ We are so sorry for your loss. I grew up at SAC and Jane was a constant for me, and SAC will have a great loss with her passing. I will be thinking of and pryaing for the family. Heidi

Heidi Reed and Family - July 10, 2015 at 03:57 PM

KK

“ John and family. Please accept our sincere and heartfelt sympathy in your loss. We are sure that your family will have many, many, great memories that will carry you through this difficult time. God has opened his arms and welcomed Barbara into his heavenly kingdom.

Kurt and Donna Kuffner - July 10, 2015 at 03:57 PM

MW

“ You are all in my thoughts and prayers. Your mom was such a caring and supportive neighbor, when we lived on Poppy Drive. Whenever I need medical advice with Adam and Courtney, she would graciously tell me what to do. She had such a calming way of making me feel everything would be okay. I will always remember her sincerity. Now, I have the pleasure of working with Beth, who has inherited her mom's wonderful characteristics! With sincerity, Melanie

Melanie Webb - July 10, 2015 at 03:57 PM