



## Joanne Harper Jones

March 20, 1942 - December 7, 2022

Joanne Harper Jones, 80, passed away on December 7th, 2022, in her home in Blacksburg. Joanne was born on March 20, 1942 (befittingly the first day of Spring), in Westboro, MA. Born a minute apart was her sister, Barbara, during a time when twins were rare, so the Harper twins were quite the pair in town. Joanne was the daughter of the town Funeral Director and spent her childhood raised in the funeral home. Her mother passed away when she was 7 when she was then cared for her by her older sister, Gini, who was the rock of the family. During her formative years in Westboro, her report cards often read "talks a lot."

Joanne attended the University of Maine where she met the love of her life, Jerry, on a blind date at the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity house. Their love affair lasted 60 beautiful years and produced 3 surviving children, Jere of Blacksburg, Timothy (Lynn) of Indianapolis and Michelle (Robert) of Charlotte and 5 grandchildren, Evan, Ellie, Tanner, Ryan, and Brady. She is also survived by sisters in law Sharon and Nancy that she considered to be sisters, brothers in law, and many nieces and nephews she adored. Lastly, she is survived by the sweetest fur baby, Lottie, who her children said she loved more than them at times. She was preceded in death by her father, Irving Harper, mother, Dorothy Conant, and sisters Barbara Minardi and Virginia Cox.

Joanne loved to laugh and make others laugh. It was not often you would find her sad or angry. She never met a stranger, was always surrounded by

friends, and would give you the shirt off her back. She will be dearly missed but she would not want us to be sad and prefer we smile and laugh at the “good times.”

The family will receive friends at McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg on Friday December 16 from 5 to 7pm. Joanne will be laid to rest finally at peace on Saturday December 17 at 2pm followed by a graveside service. Details will be provided later for an afterlife celebration toasting our funny, caring, beautiful JoJo. We feel comfort knowing she is reunited with her family and peace that she had a life well lived.

# Cemetery Details

## Memorial Gardens of the New River Valley

2551 N. MAIN ST.  
BLACKSBURG, VA 24060

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 16. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

McCoy Funeral Home  
150 Country Club Dr. S.W.  
Blacksburg, VA 24060  
(540) 552-3211  
mccoyfuneralhome@verizon.net  
<https://mccoyfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

DEC 17. 2:00 PM (ET)

McCoy Funeral Home Chapel  
150 Country Club Dr S.W.  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

# Tribute Wall

JT

“ *Janette Taper lit a candle in memory of Joanne Harper Jones*



janette taper - December 06, 2023 at 12:17 PM

KG

“ *I was so sad to hear of Joanne's death. I had gotten to know her through Physical Therapy, and always enjoyed her smile and sense of humor. To her family, I am very sorry for your loss.*

Karolyn Whittlesey Givens - December 17, 2022 at 12:24 PM

DS

“ *Michelle and family, please accept our deepest condolences. Praying for peace and comfort for you all.*



*Drew, Ryan and Josh Slayton*

Drew Slayton - December 16, 2022 at 02:43 PM

ST

“ *Joanne will be remembered as a beautiful, caring, joyful, and vivacious person. She always spoke of Jerry and her children with such love, pride and devotion. Her smile and laugh were infectious and she was almost always smiling/ laughing. Joanne was the very best of coworkers and it was never a dull day at Tech Bookstore if she was working. We enjoyed visiting the downtown restaurants each work day for fun lunches along with Coach and other coworkers. Joanne was absolutely loved by all. So many friends were always dropping in on her at work to say hello and catch up. Sharing in your sadness as you remember and honor Joanne.*  
*Sheila*

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**Sheila Thomas** - December 15, 2022 at 05:09 PM

ST

“ *Sheila Thomas purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Joanne Harper Jones.*



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**Sheila Thomas** - December 15, 2022 at 04:29 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Joanne Harper Jones.*



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December 15, 2022 at 12:52 PM

CB

“ Dear Uncle Jerry, Jere, Tim & Lynn, Michelle and Robert and all the grands. We love you guys and are so sorry we’re not able to be there. I didn’t know Aunt Joanne very well, but I remember her as a person who was full of joy adventure and love for each of you. Mom loved she and Barb so much. Your comments about Joanne and her life shared som tidbits I didn’t know before and I appreciated learning more about her. Our love and prayers are with you guys.  
Love Cathy

Catherine Bender - December 14, 2022 at 10:41 AM

CB

“ Cathy and Phil Bender purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Joanne Harper Jones.



Cathy and Phil Bender - December 14, 2022 at 10:32 AM

SD

“ Sharon Druehl purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Joanne Harper Jones.



Sharon Druehl - December 13, 2022 at 01:52 PM

MM

“ We got to know Joanne and Jerry through Square Dancing. We spent many enjoyable evenings dancing , eating, and having a great time with this special couple. We remember Joanne's great smile and our time spent together with both Joanne and Jerry. -Martha & Danny McMahan

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**Martha & Danny McMahan** - December 13, 2022 at 10:24 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joanne Harper Jones.



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December 13, 2022 at 10:19 AM

JM

“ Dear Jerry,

*Please accept our sincere condolences in the passing of Joanne. What fun we had sitting in front of you two at the VT football games back in the day. It was never the same for us not sitting near the two of you. And yes we agree Joanne never met a stranger and was so much fun!*

*You and your family will be in our thoughts and prayers in the days ahead. May God strengthen and sustain you during this extremely difficult time.*

*With love and sympathy,  
Jim and Dianne Marshall*

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**Jim and Dianne Marshall** - December 12, 2022 at 08:57 PM

PM

“ I met Joanne at line dancing at the Rec Center. She made it look so easy. She was always put together even when we were sweating and laughing as we danced. She encouraged and patiently showed me again and again how to do whatever dance we were working on. Such a sweet spirit, she will be missed!  
Pat Marlowe

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**Pat Marlowe** - December 12, 2022 at 03:36 PM

PW

“ Pat and John White purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Joanne Harper Jones.



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**Pat and John White** - December 12, 2022 at 01:21 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joanne Harper Jones.



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December 12, 2022 at 11:31 AM



“ Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Joanne Harper Jones.



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December 12, 2022 at 09:50 AM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Joanne Harper Jones.* ”



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December 12, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ *Keegan Conrey & Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Joanne Harper Jones.* ”



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**Keegan Conrey & Family** - December 11, 2022 at 07:28 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joanne Harper Jones.* ”



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December 10, 2022 at 10:27 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Joanne Harper Jones.* ”



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December 10, 2022 at 10:23 AM

VS

“ We met Joanne and Jerry in Lot 5 on the Virginia Tech campus. We had the good fortune of parking next to each other for a couple of years before being separated by a few rows and parking spaces. After that year, Jerry and Billy kept tabs on which space the other had requested so we could ensure we would have two spaces together. We always looked forward to the start of the football season and the many opportunities to share food and conversation with Joanne and the crew. She was such a light in the world and we will miss her. God bless her soul and deepest sympathy to Jerry, the children and grandchildren. The simple joy of having known her will keep her memory alive in our hearts. Val & Jeff St. John

Valerie Stjohn - December 10, 2022 at 07:09 AM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joanne Harper Jones.



December 09, 2022 at 09:16 PM

MA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Martha Ann - December 09, 2022 at 08:44 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joanne Harper Jones.*



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December 09, 2022 at 04:22 PM



“ *Nana used to tell me that when Joanne’s mother was pregnant with her and Barbara, Dorothy’s friends used to tell her half jokingly that there were 2 babies in there and they couldn’t wait for them to come along because they wanted to name the babies Olive and Oliver! I didn’t know aunt Joanne very well but she made quite an impression on me. I think she was a wonderful person. I’m sorry we can’t be there for the funeral but we will be thinking of you all as you say goodbye.*

*Megan Chauhan*

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**megan chauhan** - December 09, 2022 at 04:08 PM



“ *I worked with Joanne at the Tech Bookstore for many years, and she was a very special person, always positive and happy. She loved her family, and I would often run into her at Kroger’s, where we would stand in the aisle and talk and catch up. I will miss her.*

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**Jerry Diffell** - December 09, 2022 at 04:06 PM

RB

“ *I won the Mother-in-law lottery! I'm going to remember making you laugh. I love you!* ”



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**Robert Blackwell** - December 09, 2022 at 03:38 PM

LS

“ *Joanne was a very dear person. I worked with her at Virginia Tech and she was always so friendly and helpful. My prayers are with your family during this time of loss.* ”

*Linda Scott*

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**Linda P. Scott** - December 09, 2022 at 11:01 AM