



Jill Peterson

September 19, 1943 - November 11, 2019

Jill Peterson, age 76, passed away on Monday, November 11, 2019 at her home in Holland, OH due to complications from Parkinson's disease.

Jill was born to Frankie Lee Janvrin Cussins and Leroy Noel Cussins in Decatur, IL on September 19, 1943. When Jill was two, the family moved to Denver, CO where she later attended Abraham Lincoln High School. After being elected student council co-president, she attended the National Student Council Leadership Conference at Camp Cheley in Estes Park, CO. During the weeklong camp, she briefly met another student delegate from Toledo, OH named Larry Peterson. The following summer, she and Larry were selected to serve as junior counselors and were assigned to advise the same group of campers. A year later, during her first week on campus at Bradley University in Peoria, IL, she bumped into Larry in her dormitory living room. They saw their three chance encounters as signs that they were meant to be together -- and so began their love story. After she and Larry were married in Denver, CO in 1964, they took turns going to school full time until they both graduated in January 1966. She graduated Cum Laude in elementary education and was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

After graduation, Jill and Larry moved to Glendale, AZ where she taught first grade while he went to the Thunderbird School of Global Management. From there, they moved to Portland, OR where their son, Tad, was born. They then

transferred to Peoria, IL where their daughter, Erin, was born. They also lived in Danville and Kewanee, IL prior to moving to Toledo, OH in 1974.

Jill was a passionate and dedicated community volunteer. She was a member of the Junior League of Toledo for over 40 years, serving as president in 1989-90. A friend mentioned that she was, a “thoughtful, caring, and experienced leader” and that her “warmth made those who served with her want to do their best.” She also served on the boards of Grace Community Center, Planned Parenthood, the Sight Center, the Toledo Alumnae Panhellenic Council, the Toledo Botanical Gardens, the Toledo Museum of Art Ambassadors (Aides), and the United Way of Greater Toledo. She was a member of Christ Child Society, Sylvania United Church of Christ, Stone Oak Country Club, and the Toledo Pi Phi Alumnae Club. She was also a charter member of the “Old Exec Committee.”

For 17 years, Jill co-owned the Kaleidoscope Needlepoint shop, first in west Toledo and then in downtown Sylvania. She loved running her own business and teaching others to needlepoint. Her home always looked stunning at Christmas with her beautiful needlepoint stockings on the mantle and ornaments on the trees.

Jill’s greatest passion was her family. She was a devoted wife to her sweetheart, Larry. They were true partners. They encouraged and supported each other and had lots of fun along the way. For their 25th wedding anniversary, they had a “year of celebration” during which they did something special every month, culminating in a grand trip to Hawaii. For their 50th they took several trips down memory lane, returning to Camp Cheley, Bradley University, and every one of the homes they shared throughout their marriage.

Jill was a loving mother to her two children and “Mimi” to her four grandchildren, and she treasured her many friends.

Jill had a kind heart and a generous spirit. She loved deeply through infinite small gestures— a little note, an encouraging word, a timely hug, a tender glance— and had a calming and reassuring way about her. She will be missed.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 55 years, Larry Peterson; son, Tad Peterson; daughter, Erin Peterson; grandchildren Marnie, Tommy, Darbi, and Hadlee Peterson; brother Jack Cussins (Denver, CO), sister-in-law Judy Peterson Wood and brother-in-law Adrian Barton (Tucson, AZ); sister-in-law, Molly Peterson Fitzpatrick and brother-in-law Jack Fitzpatrick (Travelers Rest, SC); and eight nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her mother and father.

A celebration of Jill's life will be held on Saturday, December 28 at 10 a.m. at Sylvania United Church of Christ at 7240 Erie St. A luncheon will be held after the service at Stone Oak Country Club until 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, friends and family are asked to consider a donation to the Junior League of Toledo Endowment Campaign at 27 Broadway St #100D, Toledo, OH 43604 or at www.juniorleaguetoledo.org. Stories, memories, and condolences are greatly appreciated. You may share them at www.ansberg-west.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

DEC 28. 10:00 AM (ET)

Sylvania United Church of Christ
7240 Erie St
Sylvania, OH 43560

Tribute Wall

BH

“ Dear Peterson Family,
I'm very sorry to hear of your loss of Jill who was a little friend of mine at Newlon School in Denver, ca. 1951-2. We were in 3rd or 4th grade. I found her obituary while putting together a little memory book of my favorite classmates, friends, teachers, and others over the years. I remember Jill as a fun, energetic little girl and I can see that this brought her much success and a lot of love from people in her life. Thank you for sharing the photos of her and your family.

Bill D. Holder, Cypress, CA

Bill D Holder - May 23, 2020 at 07:26 PM

JK

“ Dear Larry and family,
Jill and I were head boy and head girl together at Abraham Lincoln high school in Denver. Jill was always friendly and upbeat, and an excellent role model for others. I am so sorry we never got together in Florida after our 50th reunion. Jill will be sorely missed.

James D Keeney - November 26, 2019 at 12:36 PM

DJ

“ *Larry and Family*

I was so sorry to hear of Jill's passing. Sometimes we are so caught up in our own problems that we do not take the time to acknowledge what is happening to others.

Jill was so much a part of so many wonderful things in this community, along with being a fabulous partner, wonderful mother and grandmother. She is a person who will never be forgotten by all those whose path crossed hers. There will be a lot of "Remember when..."

You are blessed to have her in your lives and can best remember her by being the best you can be in all that you do. You are all in our prayers.

*Love and peace always -
Rick St John*

Dr Richard St John - November 22, 2019 at 11:17 PM

CC

“ *Larry and Family,*

Our whole family share our thoughts and prayers for you and your family. You have a special family that I'm sure will be at your side at this trying time.

Charlie & Nancy Creech & family

Charlie Creech - November 21, 2019 at 01:58 PM

JO

“ Larry, Tad, Erin, grandchildren & family,

We are so sorry for the loss of dear Jill.

When it was time to go to Junior League functions, help in the community or a friend in any way, she was always there! She was certainly a very caring dedicated leader, friend, loving wife, mother and grandmother!

We had so many wonderful times throughout the years as couples! We can still hear her giggle and see her beautiful smiling eyes. 😊 She will be truly missed by all!

We send our love and sincere sympathy. You're in our thoughts and prayers for strength and peace.

❤️ *Ray, Jan and family*

Jan & Ray O'Lenic - November 19, 2019 at 02:19 PM

PC

“ Larry and family,

As mentioned before, so sorry for all of our loss, much too young. Janet never knew Jill was a Pi Phi also, (Janet at SMU), they could have shared more.

See you in August. Phil & Janet Cobb

Phil Cobb - November 19, 2019 at 01:03 PM

DS

“ Larry,

Dodo and I are so very sorry for your loss. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Dan Simrell

Dan Simrell - November 19, 2019 at 12:36 PM

JB

“ I am sorry for your loss Prayers going out to you and your family.

Janette Rutschow Blesing. Class of 61 DHS

Janette Blesing - November 18, 2019 at 03:45 PM

KT

“ My heart goes out to dear Jill's family. I went to high school with Jill and she was always loved by everyone...she was a very special person and I am happy I had the opportunity to know her - even for a few short years. She came to our 50th high school reunion was as radiant and lovely as ever. She will be sorely missed...

Karen Thorne - November 17, 2019 at 08:29 PM

GG

“ ❤️ Sending much love and prayers to your family during this time. Your Mom guided so many through the League and beyond.... She shared her wisdom and created one incredible Erin, such a gift to us all ❤️

Gretchen LeBoutillier Good - November 17, 2019 at 09:25 AM

JD

“ Dear Larry,
Nick and I send you and yours our deepest sympathy. I know that Jill was very brave throughout her illness. She was a lovely woman, and her kindness touched many of us.

*Sincerely,
Judy and Nick Dye*

Judith Dye - November 16, 2019 at 05:12 PM

LM

“ *Larry, Tad, and Erin, We want to express our deepest sympathy with the loss of Jill.*

We have many fond memories of the Gaines Mill gang.

Jim and Linda Miller and Family

Linda Miller - November 16, 2019 at 02:48 PM

ER

“ *11 files added to the album Memories Album*



erinpeterson99 - November 15, 2019 at 10:01 PM