



## Joanne P. Simpson

December 31, 1952 - January 11, 2025

Joanne Petroski Simpson, 72, passed away peacefully at her home in West Hartford on Friday, January 10th, surrounded by her loving family. Joanne, or "Jo" as she was affectionately known, was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. Her life was characterized by an unwavering love for her family, boundless compassion, and a talent for bringing joy to those around her. She leaves behind a legacy of kindness, laughter, and cherished relationships, and will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Born on New Year's Eve, 1952, in Dover, Delaware, Joanne was the beloved daughter of Joseph and Irene (Groot) Petroski. She spent her early childhood in Newton, MA, before the family settled in Manchester, CT, where she grew up. Joanne attended Verplanck and Assumption Schools, later graduating from East Catholic High School in 1970.

Joanne earned her B.S. in Physical Therapy from the University of Connecticut in 1975. She worked as a pediatric physical therapist at The Meeting Street School and Easter Seals in Providence, RI, where she touched many lives with her clinical expertise and deep empathy.

In 1977, she married David Tate Simpson, and soon after, she began a new chapter of her career, channeling her nurturing spirit into caring for animals.

As a Certified Veterinary Technician at the Avon Veterinary Clinic in Avon, CT, Joanne worked under the guidance of Dr. Fred Feibel for nearly two decades, forming lasting friendships with her colleagues, including Dr. Tom Morganti. Her time at the clinic not only brought her professional fulfillment, but also the joy of adopting several pets who became part of her family.

After retiring from the veterinary field, Joanne shifted her focus to her work as a library paraprofessional at Wolcott School in West Hartford, where she thrived for many years. She formed close bonds with the staff, especially Sarah Lynch, and was known for her remarkable ability to remember students' names, even years after her retirement.

While Joanne's career brought her joy, it was her role as a mother and grandmother that truly defined her. She was a steadfast and loving mother to her children, Margot and Kevin, and she created a home filled with warmth, safety, and boundless love. Her children's friends - particularly Scott Shand and Angela Savanella Stein - were always treated like family, and she was actively involved in their school and extracurricular activities, planning events, fundraisers, and graduation parties. Her home was a gathering place for their friends, always stocked with snacks and welcoming to all.

Joanne's deep friendships were also a cornerstone of her life. She shared over 50 years of friendship with Anne (Stevenson) Goldberg, whom she met on the first day of college at UConn. Anne's unwavering support during Joanne's final months was a gift to her family. Joanne's close-knit group of friends, known affectionately as "The Ladies" (Laurie, Emily, Lynn, Kerry, and Julie), gathered annually at Black Point in Niantic to enjoy margaritas and laugh long into the night. She also formed lifelong friendships through her involvement with her children's activities, particularly with her dear friend Marylou Shand.

The greatest joy of Joanne's life was becoming "Grandma Jo" - "GJ" - to her four beloved grandchildren: Henry Tate and Charlotte Josephine Reynolds, and Nora Grace and William George Simpson. Joanne reveled in spending time with them, and their presence brought her immense joy, especially in her final days. She cherished every moment with them, grateful for the opportunity to watch them grow and to spoil them with love.

Joanne had a passion for travel, having explored destinations as diverse as Italy, Alaska, Prince Edward Island, and Puerto Rico. But her favorite place to be was at Black Point Beach in Niantic, CT, just an hour from home. There, she loved hosting cookouts for Memorial Day and the Fourth of July, taking walks around Old Black Point, and enjoying peaceful moments on the pier—sometimes bundled up in a parka, regardless of the season.

Joanne is survived by her devoted husband of 47 years, David Tate Simpson; her daughter, Margot Simpson Reynolds and her husband, Chilton, of Oneonta, NY; and her son, Kevin Simpson and his wife, Kate, of West Hartford. She also leaves her brother, Mark (Diane) Petroski of Manchester; her sister, Susan (Will Foran) Lofstrom of Manchester; and her brothers-in-law, Doug (Bobbie) Simpson of Wethersfield, Steve (Cathy) Simpson of West Milford, NJ, and Peter Lofstrom of Chaplin, CT. Joanne was a loving aunt to nieces and nephews Greg and Phil Scollan, Irene Petroski, Joe (Joannah) Petroski, Elizabeth Simpson, Sarah (Bruce Terra) Lofstrom, and Will (Mariah) Lofstrom, as well as several great nieces and nephews. She will also be deeply missed by her beloved dog, Muppet. Joanne was predeceased by her parents and her brother, Michael.

The family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to the exceptional team of nurses and providers at McLean Hospice, whose compassionate care made Joanne's final weeks more comfortable. Special thanks to nurses

Cassandra and Hazel for their kindness and support. The family would also like to acknowledge the providers at Hartford Hospital, particularly Dr. Moya, Dr. Shapiro, Dr. DeFusco, and the nurses on Bliss 7 and North 8, for their dedicated care and respect during Joanne's hospitalizations.

Calling hours will be held on Tuesday, January 14th, from 4-7 PM at Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford. A Celebration of Life will be held the following morning, Wednesday, January 15th, from 10 AM to 12 PM at the same location. Please visit [www.molloyfuneralhome.com](http://www.molloyfuneralhome.com) for online condolences.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the American Cancer Society or the Connecticut Humane Society.

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

JAN **14**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home  
906 Farmington Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06119

## Memorial Service

JAN **15**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home  
906 Farmington Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06119

# Tribute Wall

PR

“*Dave, my most sincere condolences on the passing of Joanne. I fondly remember those Masters Sunday golf outings at Tunxis followed by a gathering at your home where Joanne always had a delicious buffet waiting. May she rest in peace and may you hold her forever in your heart.*”

*Peter Riggins*

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**Peter Riggins** - January 15, 2025 at 09:23 AM



“*Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Joanne P. Simpson.*”



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January 14, 2025 at 12:51 PM



“*Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Joanne P. Simpson.*”



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January 14, 2025 at 09:56 AM



“ *Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joanne P. Simpson.*



January 13, 2025 at 06:15 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joanne P. Simpson.

January 13, 2025 at 06:15 PM



“ *David, Margot & Kevin,*

*My deepest, deepest sympathy to your entire family... Joann was an amazing person💙👉💙please know you are in my many loving memories & thoughts, along with lots of prayers... with my tearful thoughts of happy memories... love, Carole Lofstrom Bis💙👉🙏💙👉*

**Carole lofstrom** - January 13, 2025 at 02:53 PM



“ *Sue and Bud Hancock purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Joanne P. Simpson.*



**Sue and Bud Hancock** - January 13, 2025 at 01:42 PM

SH

“ Sue and Bud Hancock planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joanne P. Simpson.

Sue and Bud Hancock - January 13, 2025 at 01:42 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Joanne P. Simpson.



January 13, 2025 at 09:11 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joanne P. Simpson.

January 13, 2025 at 09:11 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joanne P. Simpson.

January 12, 2025 at 08:49 PM

PA

“ I'm so sorry for your loss, for everyone's loss. I loved her laugh, and positive energy. Love to all.  
Patty Forest

Patty - January 12, 2025 at 08:27 PM



“ Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Joanne P. Simpson.



January 12, 2025 at 06:32 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joanne P. Simpson.

January 12, 2025 at 06:32 PM



“ Remembering with love and laughter our game night get togethers. Until we meet again. ❤️ Wally



**Wally Schrass** - January 12, 2025 at 06:19 PM



“ We will all see you again, Aunt Joanne. Love you! xoxoxo

**Philip Scollan** - January 12, 2025 at 06:13 PM



“ Philip Scollan lit a candle in memory of Joanne P. Simpson



**Philip Scollan** - January 12, 2025 at 06:08 PM

LZ

“ A beautiful woman, a genuinely caring life. Jo will be sorely missed by me and so many others. She has always walked with angels...  
Laurie Z

Laurie Zimmiewicz - January 12, 2025 at 05:28 PM

LF

“ Lofstrom Families purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Joanne P. Simpson.



Lofstrom Families - January 12, 2025 at 04:38 PM

LF

“ Lofstrom Families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joanne P. Simpson.

Lofstrom Families - January 12, 2025 at 04:38 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joanne P. Simpson.



January 12, 2025 at 03:59 PM

JB

“ Jim and Ellen Bly, purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Joanne P. Simpson.



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Jim and Ellen Bly, - January 12, 2025 at 02:34 PM

JB

“ Jim and Ellen Bly, planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joanne P. Simpson.

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Jim and Ellen Bly, - January 12, 2025 at 02:34 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Joanne P. Simpson.



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January 12, 2025 at 01:44 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joanne P. Simpson.

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January 12, 2025 at 01:44 PM