



Jeanine Vigneau

February 17, 1944 - December 10, 2013

JEANINE'S STORY

Jeanine was born in Belgium in 1944. Her parents lived above a small pub that they ran on evenings and weekends when they were not at their regular jobs of hairdressing and baking. After years of hard work their dream of coming to America would finally come true when a cousin of her mother's was able to sponsor them. So in 1954 they packed all of their possessions into one large steamer trunk and set sail for the USA.

When Jeanine started school in the States neither she nor her parents spoke English, so she not only had to learn very quickly, but also brought home her lessons and helped to teach her parents. As with all children in Belgium, Jeanine started school at an early age and was accustomed to writing with a fountain pen. She thought it was the oddest thing that they actually gave her a crayon to write with.

The first time Rodney saw Jeanine was in Junior High. The town Rodney came from was very small so they sent 7th and 8th graders to Hampton. Jeanine and Rodney attended the regional high school and their pictures were next to each other in the 1963 yearbook. Jeanine got married right after high school and soon had her first daughter Brenda, and then later Darcy. Years later, after her divorce, she raised the girls as a single mom with much support from her parents who were always close by.

Throughout all this time the families and friends from Belgium maintained a close knit community that would gather several times a year. It would seem as though the meals were a competition and became more elaborate with each dinner. Antipasto piled high, homemade sausage, and pastries that most people would only ever see in a bakery. Memories of Belgium were shared, stories told...along with some really bad jokes...and the laughter never ceased. Then the music would start, the furniture set aside, and the dancing ensued. The music was always her favored waltzes and love songs from the 40's and 50's, but being Belgian there were always several polkas thrown into the mix.

Jeanine loved to dance.

Meanwhile, Rodney was hard at work in the mid-west. He returned to New Hampshire in 1975. Rod had a terrible tooth ache and was seeking out a dentist when he got really lucky and found Jeanine working as the office receptionist. The tooth ache just seemed to

disappear. Their first formal date was to attend their 15th high school reunion. They were married in the spring of 1979.

Over the next couple of years, they built a passive solar home on a plot Rodney had been clearing for several years. This do it yourself project required, and at times tried Jeanine's patience. But for most of the 25 years that they lived in New Hampshire it was in their beautiful country home. As with many of life's projects, some fine details remained unfinished. The trim work ending at the kitchen, a door jam sill bearing it's studs, the pantry wall that never got painted. It was only when they decided they would sell and move to Florida that the house was finally finished. About time!

During those years in her happy Hampton Falls home, Jeanine returned to her Catholic faith and participated in the RCIA program first as a student and then as a team member. After moving to Florida she became a member of St Paul's church, and joined the Council of Catholic Women as well as being a volunteer of the Ministry to the Sick. Jeanine was a knitter and would knit a baby blanket just about every month and donate them to various causes.

Jeanine was a loving and caring wife, daughter and mother, as well as a kind friend to all who were blessed to have had her in our lives. She will be missed.

LEESBURG FL - Surrounded by her family, Jeanine Vigneau died on December 10th at the Cornerstone Hospice House in The Villages, FL after a brief illness.

Mrs. Vigneau was born on February 17, 1944 in Geraardsbergen, Belgium, the daughter of the late Gustaaf and Marie (Van Onacker) VanCauwenberge and came to this country in 1954. She grew up and lived in the Hampton, NH area and attended Winnacunnet High School, the Class of 1963. She and her husband retired to Florida in 2005 after living in Hampton Falls for 24 years. Jeanine was active in The Catholic Community of St Paul in Leesburg where she was a member of the Council of Catholic Women and the Ministry to the Sick.

She is survived by her husband Rodney Vigneau, a daughter Darcy Taylor of Portsmouth NH, three grand children and two great grandchildren. She was predeceased by a daughter Brenda Stanley.

There are no visiting hours. A Funeral Mass will be held at 8:30 AM on December 16th, at The Catholic Community of St Paul Church in Leesburg. Inurnment will be at West View Cemetery in Hampton Falls, NH at a later time.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association 378 Center Pointe Circle, Ste 1280, Altamonte Springs FL 32701.

Events

DEC **Mass of the Resurrection**08:30AM

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St. Paul's Catholic Church

Leesburg, FL, US

Comments



“ Rod. We were sad to hear of Jeanine's passing. Please accept sincerest condolences.

Tim and Anne Marie Samway, Hampton Falls, NH

Tim Samway - December 15, 2013 at 03:19 PM



“ Dear Rod,
We are very saddened to hear about Jeanine. We always loved getting together and laughing. I will truly miss her. Please know that we keep you in our prayers. God Bless,
The Pittendreigh Family

Lynn Pittendreigh - December 14, 2013 at 04:53 PM



“ Lois Mazurka is following this tribute.

Lois Mazurka - December 13, 2013 at 04:18 PM



“ JEANINE AND I BECAME BEST FRIENDS IN HIGH SCHOOL IN HAMPTON, I WAS SENT TO A BOARDING SCHOOL IN 1062, BUT JEANINE AND I STAYED FRIENDS ALL THESE YEARS. I MARRIED A VIGNEAULT AND JEANINE MARRIED VIGNEAU. WE TEASED EACH OTHER THAT OUR LAST NAMES WERE SPELLED WRONG. GOD BLESS ROD AND DARCY.

BRENDA VIGNEAULT - December 14, 2013 at 12:19 PM



“ Dear Rod, We are saddened to hear of the passing of Jeanine. She was truly a sweet lady. Our sincere condolences to you and the family. With sympathy, Lori Ruest and Holly Knowles.

Lori - December 13, 2013 at 10:37 AM



“ Dear Rod, We are saddened to hear of the passing of Jeanine. She was truly a sweet lady. Our sincere condolences to you and the family. With sympathy, Lori Ruest and Holly Knowles

Lori - December 13, 2013 at 09:40 AM



“ Rod & Family:: Joanne and I will certainly miss seeing Jeanine's smiling face when she is walking the dogs down our street. She will be missed by many people in the neighborhood and Pennbrooke in general. Please pass our sincere condolences to your family. God bless you.
Ed & Joanne

Ed & Joanne Davis - December 12, 2013 at 09:33 AM