



Joan L. Tilson

February 7, 1927 - April 23, 2021

Joan Louise (Knetzger) Tilson, age 94, died on Friday, April 23, 2021 in Saline, Michigan where she moved in 2007 after living in Sault Ste. Marie for over 50 years. Joan was born on February 7, 1927 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Irene and Alois Knetzger. After her father died when she was 3, her mother, Irene, married Charles Strauch and they raised a family of 10 children on a farm near Germantown, Wisconsin.

Joan graduated from The University of Wisconsin (UWM) in 1948 where she studied education. Upon graduation, she accepted a teaching position with Rudyard Area Schools and arrived by train to begin her teaching career in Rudyard. On September 22, 1951 she married John "Jack" Tilson and moved to Sault Ste. Marie where Jack opened a barber business. Joan became a lifelong member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church and was active in the Women's Guild. John and Joan were blessed with 4 children (Tim, Lynn, Karen and Margaret). Joan later returned to teaching and taught 7th grade math to three generations of Chippewa County students in Sault Area schools for over 30 years. She retired from teaching in 1986 and volunteered with several organizations: St. Joseph's Catholic Church, St. Joseph's Guild Thrift Shop, Bayliss Public Library, and Chippewa County Hospice.

Joan was married to Jack "Red" Tilson for 53+ years, who predeceased her in 2004. Joan is survived by her four children: Timothy, Fairfax VA; Lynn, Buckley, MI; Karen Miller, Saline MI; Margaret (Robert) Chaplin, Battle Creek, MI; two grandchildren: Kristen (John) Schils, Charlotte, NC and Jay (Kelsey)

Miller, Saline, MI and three great grandchildren, Kenley Eve Miller, Maverick Paul Miller, Saline, MI and Emily Rose Schils, Charlotte NC. She was predeceased by four brothers and four sisters; one brother, Richard (MarBeth) Strauch, Boulder, CO survives.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, June 11, 2021 at 11:30 A.M. at St. Andrew's Catholic Church, 910 Austin Drive, Saline, MI. Friends may join the family for a time of visitation from 10:30 A.M. until the time of Mass at 11:30 A.M.

To view a live stream of the Mass remotely, please use this link: <https://youtu.be/icRbzFEFTXU>

Donations may be made to the John H. Tilson Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund by sending a check payable to the Rudyard Area Community Foundation, P.O. Box 394, Rudyard, MI 49780; please indicate TILSON in the memo portion of your check. The scholarship was established by Joan after Jack died in 2004 and is awarded to a Rudyard high school senior who will be attending college to become a teacher. To leave a memory you have of Joan, to sign her guestbook or for directions please visit www.rbfsaline.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 11. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church
910 Austin Drive
Saline, MI 48176
<https://standrewsaline.org/>

Mass of Christian Burial

JUN 11. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church
910 Austin Drive
Saline, MI 48176
<https://standrewsaline.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ Robison-Bahnmilller Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Live Stream of Joan Tilson Mass in memory of Joan L. Tilson



Robison-Bahnmilller Funeral Home & Cremation Services - May 04, 2021 at 10:19 AM



“ Joan L. Tilson

October 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joan L. Tilson.



June 09, 2021 at 08:41 PM



“ Thinking of the Tilson Family during this difficult time. May her memory be a blessing. Warmly, Elizabeth Levy

elizabeth levy - May 09, 2021 at 06:13 PM

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“ *Tim, Karen, and family. I am so sorry to hear the news that your mom passed away. My thoughts and prayers are with you all right now. Joan was a wonderful lady and I am glad I had the chance to meet her (and all of you) at EVH. She always had a smile for me. And Tim, I will never forget how she laughed when you called when she didnt answer her phone. She always had some sassy remark. Trudi*



Trudi Haddell - April 29, 2021 at 03:39 PM