



Jo-Ann Verrier

January 18, 2015

Verrier, Jo-Ann Heilferty

Jo-Ann was born in her beloved New York City in 1937 to Henry Blair Heilferty and Rose Massey Heilferty. Her mother and beloved Aunt Julia worked extra hours to ensure this “girl from the Bronx” had piano lessons and a matching coat and hat from B. Altman & Co., rode horses, and attended Mount St. Ursula Academy. At the Mount, she starred in several school plays, providing foundation for her life-long love of the theater.

In 1951, Jo-Ann had a first date with John Verrier. Their enduring mutual love and respect led to many fine adventures. Together, they moved their growing family to Rockland County in 1963. A fiercely loving mother, Mom was always ready, with impeccable timing, to support and defend her seven children and to tell say, when necessary, “Buck Up, Cowboys.” She challenged all seven to be their best selves while having beach-loads of fun along the journey.

Jo-Ann was very active in St. Gregory Barbarigo School and Parish. She was also the brains behind the J.A. Heilferty Company, Jack’s business, and the company’s success provided new avenues for her charity and adventurous spirit.

In 1977, the family moved to Oradell, where she quickly became an inspiration

to those in the St. Joseph's Parish community and the Monday Night Prayer Group. She lived the Beatitudes and was active in the Social Concerns Committee and in Cornerstone. Jo-Ann also served ten years on the Board of Trustees at her beloved Academy of Mount St. Ursula, supporting the educations of new generations of AMSU graduates.

Jo-Ann's intelligence is legendary. As the mother of seven and with an incredibly busy volunteer life, she reignited her own love of education and the arts and took her college degree at Fordham University, receiving her BFA in 1987 summa cum laude at the age of 50. She continued with private acting lessons in Manhattan and would, at the drop of a hat, take off on a Wednesday afternoon and enjoy a Broadway matinee.

Jo-Ann loved travel, especially if it involved a ship. When her grandchildren approached their mid-teens, she'd gather up a bunch and take them on a cruise. She crossed the Atlantic three times and traveled to Europe, Australia, and the Far East. She loved the US and drove cross-country twice. Indeed, she loved to drive anywhere and would happily and at spur of the moment start a long journey with nothing more than her driver's license, the change she could find down the seats, and a good friend. Jo-Ann and Jack took many trips with their incredibly wide circle of friends: from 238th Street, Iona, Jack's work, and Rockland and Oradell...

And she loved the beach. From her childhood trips to Montauk and Jones Beach to her home in Seaside Park, Jo-Ann loved a sea breeze and the sound of children splashing in the waves. She created memories there, for many, and expressed that one of her greatest joys was to see how the next baby would respond to the ocean, recognizing their individuality while teaching them a love of nature and family.

Jo-Ann's broad definition of what family means, and her deep, resounding

faith, created ripples of love felt by countless people. She was the wife who supported each new enterprise of her enterprising husband, always encouraging, always lending her good judgment, and always deeply proud. She was the mom who came when the grandchildren were born, making her famous pot roast – indeed, the mom who came to every birthday and every celebration (and occasionally made up celebrations just because...). She once made three college graduations in three different states in one weekend. She was the Gram and Gigi who loved unconditionally and by that love created a Cousinhood that is deeply, lastingly real. She was the sister and cousin who was always present with love and understanding. And she was the friend who taught all what friendship actually means.

Jo-Ann believed that everything could be cured by a dip in the ocean; that even on their worst days, all people were simply God's love alive; and that we are all here for one simple reason: to love well, and to be well-loved. She did, and she was.

Jo-Ann was deeply loved by her family: her husband of 57 years, John Joseph Verrier; her seven children and their spouses, Jo-Ann Mary & Mark McGuire; Jeanne Marie & John Budka; Judy Anne & Krishna Guadalupe; Ellen Marie & Timothy Brello; Michele Marie & Charles Chiarello; John Joseph Jr. & Susan; Kristen Elizabeth & Leon Grebla; her 22 grandchildren, Lauren & Michael, Jillian & Dave, and Mick McGuire; Danielle & Jeff, Jaclyn, and John Stephen Budka; Isaiah, Elijah, and Rhia Guadalupe; Nicole and Michelle Brello; Mikayla, John Charles, and Daniel Chiarello; John Clifton, Samantha, Michael, and Cassidy Verrier; and Logan, Grayson, Fallon Jo-Ann, and Kai Mae Grebla; and her seven great-grandchildren, Jaden Budka and Angelina Fowler; Charles and Stella Koehler; Sydney and Jackson Nepola; and John Charles Verrier; her brothers and sisters-in-law, Henry & Rosemary and Robert & Lyn and their families; her sister- and brother-in-law Barbara &

Richard Kemple and their family; and her dear cousins Julie and Michael and their family; and many cousins and cousins-in-law.

Indeed, Jo-Ann was universally loved.

Funeral service Friday 9:30AM from the Volk Leber Funeral Home, 268 Kinderkamack Rd., Oradell. Then to St. Joseph's RC Church for a 10:30AM Mass of Christian Burial. Interment to follow at Ascension Cemetery. Family and friends are invited to visit Wednesday 2-4PM & 6-9PM and Thursday morning 10AM-12 Noon & 6-9PM.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Rose M. Heilferty/Jo-Ann H. Verrier Scholarship at the Academy of Mount St. Ursula, 330 Bedford Park Boulevard, Bronx, New York, 10458, or Villa Marie Claire Hospice, 12 West Saddle River Road, Saddle River, New Jersey, 07458, are most appreciated by the family.

Cemetery Details

Ascension Cemetery

650 Saddle River Road
Airmont, NY 10952
<http://ascensioncemeteryrockland.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 21. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Oradell
268 Kinderkamack Rd.
Oradell, NJ 07649
(201) 261-1088
info@volkleber.com
<https://www.volkleber.com>

Visitation

JAN 21. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Oradell
268 Kinderkamack Rd.
Oradell, NJ 07649
(201) 261-1088
info@volkleber.com
<https://www.volkleber.com>

Visitation

JAN **22**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Oradell
268 Kinderkamack Rd.
Oradell, NJ 07649
(201) 261-1088
info@volkleber.com
<https://www.volkleber.com>

Visitation

JAN **22**. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Oradell
268 Kinderkamack Rd.
Oradell, NJ 07649
(201) 261-1088
info@volkleber.com
<https://www.volkleber.com>

Funeral Mass

JAN **23** (ET)

St. Joseph's RCC
300 Elm Street
Oradell, NJ 07649

Tribute Wall



“ Volk Leber Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Jo-Ann Verrier



Volk Leber Funeral Home - January 21, 2015 at 11:11 AM



“ *Jo-Ann Verrier*

October 08, 2023 at 09:59 PM



“ *Jo-Ann Verrier*

October 08, 2023 at 06:27 PM



“ *Jo-Ann Verrier*

August 30, 2022 at 02:48 PM

GH

“ *The Verrier family has been a part of my life since my first breath. When the decided to move to New Jersey i felt like they were leaving me. I then realized whether you move to the next town, the next state, or the next life those you love never really leave you. I love you all dearly. Aunt Jo-Anne and Uncle Jack are the best God-parents any one could be lucky enough to have*



Gina Wunderlich Herska

Gina Herska - January 24, 2015 at 09:42 AM

JB

“ *Jo-Ann was an extraordinarily kind woman, a fierce friend who knew no strangers. She was a pure, generous soul who knew who she was and never forgot where she came from. Her charm and wit--delivered with a twinkle in her eye--would light up the room. Jo-Ann was the embodiment of love and grace, and presented herself with more class than anyone I've ever known. Kathy and I are deeply saddened by her passing and have been thinking of her and all of you all this week. Please know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers.*

John and Kathy Bookstaver

John Bookstaver - January 23, 2015 at 12:00 PM



“ *Finest Farewell Spray was purchased for the family of Jo-Ann Verrier.*



January 22, 2015 at 12:48 PM

KW

“ *Kristy First / Wrapbags purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Jo-Ann Verrier.*



Kristy First / Wrapbags - January 22, 2015 at 10:50 AM

SS

“ *Strategic Legal Solutions purchased the Rays of Light Spray for the family of Jo-Ann Verrier.*



Strategic Legal Solutions - January 22, 2015 at 06:30 AM



“ *Gift of Grace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jo-Ann Verrier.*



January 21, 2015 at 10:48 AM



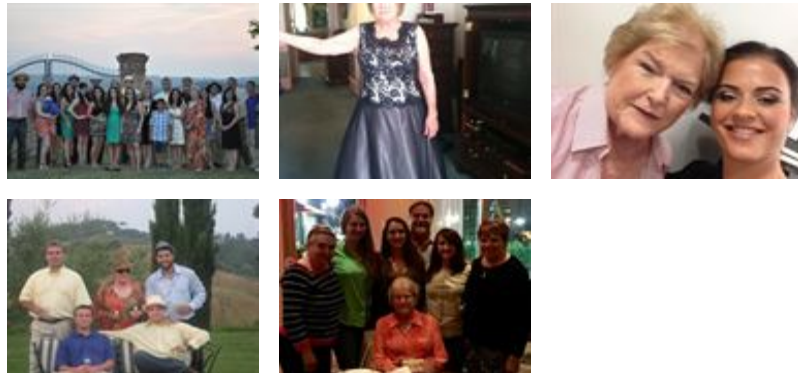
“ 61 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Volk Leber Funeral Home - January 21, 2015 at 10:35 AM



“ 52 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Volk Leber Funeral Home - January 21, 2015 at 09:33 AM



“ *The McGuire Family purchased the A Full Life for the family of Jo-Ann Verrier.*



The McGuire Family - January 21, 2015 at 08:05 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Jo-Ann Verrier.



January 20, 2015 at 04:41 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket* was purchased for the family of Jo-Ann Verrier.



January 20, 2015 at 04:20 PM



“ *Tom and Lorraine Anderer* purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Jo-Ann Verrier.



Tom and Lorraine Anderer - January 20, 2015 at 03:39 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray* was purchased for the family of Jo-Ann Verrier.



January 20, 2015 at 02:31 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jo-Ann Verrier.*



January 20, 2015 at 02:17 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Jo-Ann Verrier.*



January 20, 2015 at 12:14 PM



“ *Finest Farewell Spray was purchased for the family of Jo-Ann Verrier.*



January 20, 2015 at 11:57 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Jo-Ann Verrier.*



January 20, 2015 at 10:44 AM

JK

“ Joe K. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Jo-Ann Verrier.



Joe K. - January 20, 2015 at 10:03 AM