



Joyce Joy Erickson

September 11, 1944 - December 22, 2014

Joyce “Joy” Erickson, age 70, died on Monday, December 22, 2014, after being struck by a hit and run driver in Dewey, Arizona, while on her way to celebrate her new granddaughter’s first Christmas. Born September 11, 1944, in Buffalo, New York, to Harry and Irene Klamborowski, she grew up in Buffalo and graduated from D’Youville College in 1968. She lived for many years in Spokane, Washington, and Sandpoint, Idaho, before moving to Dewey in 2008.

Joy spent much of her life traveling the world as an international flight attendant, first for Pan Am, and later for World Airways, from which she retired in the spring of 2014. She spent time in Laos during the Vietnam War working with the Tom Dooley Foundation providing education, aid and relief to war refugees. She also worked as a school nurse and raised two great kids. Joy loved nothing more than hopping on a plane for a new adventure with a friend or family member, whether taking in the cultural sights of Europe, trekking through the jungles of Southeast Asia, or exploring ancient ruins in Egypt. Most recently, her greatest happiness was spending as much time as she could with her granddaughter.

In recent years, Joyce preferred to be called “Joy.” It was a very fitting nickname because she brought joy to so many of her friends and family. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Joy’s survivors include her daughter, Amy Erickson (Quentin Vaughan) and granddaughter, Ingrid, of Livermore, California; her son, Eric Erickson (Ashley McCloud) of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; her sister Sue Allison (Marty Beatty) of Cornville, Arizona; and several nieces and nephews. Her parents and her sister Margaret “Peggy” Wasielewski preceded her in death.

The family will hold a private memorial. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Dooley Intermed International at www.dooleyintermed.org. Condolences, stories, memories or photos of Joy’s adventures may be sent to the family via the guest book at

the Hampton Funeral Home in Prescott, Arizona, at www.hamptonfuneralhome.com.

Comments



“ Joy, up there, my dear: A message to say what a pleasure it was to work with you on those loooong overseas flights, and then to share a meals afterward. Your kindness and good nature marked you as someone extraordinarily special. I was blessed to have known you and shared air space with you, old friend.

Diana - January 27, 2015 at 04:07 PM



“ Gus, Karen & Zara lit a candle in memory of Joyce Joy Erickson



Gus, Karen & Zara - January 23, 2015 at 10:46 AM



“ Joyce, later known as Joy, was my big sister and I don't know how to live without her in this world. I wasn't aware of how much presence and influence she had in my life, until now, when I feel the emptiness of living without her. We loved each other very much, and nobody in the world could make me laugh like she did. We could both look at something the same way and burst out laughing so hard that my face would hurt. People would laugh with us and then timidly approach us and ask what we were all laughing about. I'll miss Joy since she was my sister and one of my closest friends. I'll miss her every single day of my life and hope she is making many souls laugh on her continued path.

Sue Allison

Sue Allison - January 19, 2015 at 02:23 PM



“ I met Joyce in Laos when she was volunteering with the Dooley Foundation and I was flying "Special Operations" with the U.S. Air Force. She completed her tour with Dooley and went back to work with Pan Am Airways. We would meet in Bangkok when she was there during her trips around the world. We decided to get married in June of 1971, and got married in Buffalo, NY. After a short honeymoon, we went back to Laos where I continued to fly and Joyce became a nurse for the US Government helping people in the villages in Northern Laos. I would fly her to a "safe" village then pick her up in the afternoon. In 1973 with the war slowing down, I got a job flying with the Flying Tiger Cargo Air Line so we moved back to the U.S.. We had two GREAT kids and over the years enjoyed the Great Outdoors with our children. I know Joyce will be greatly missed by our two children, Amy and Eric, our grand daughter Ingrid, and her many, many friends that she made over the years. I hope everyone will remember her for the wonderful person she was. I know I will.

Eric Erickson



Eric Erickson - January 12, 2015 at 09:06 PM



“ It is so difficult to capture Joy in a few sentences. She had an outgoing personality, a heart of gold and was so much fun to spend time with. It has taken me a long time to write because I can not believe Joy is gone. We first met in 1971 in Laos, when she was a volunteer there, and have visited back and forth approximately every year since. She was a great Mother to her two children and a Grandmother absolutely fascinated by her new granddaughter. My sincere condolences to all her family.

Thank you Joy, for all the great memories you left.
You will always be in my prayers.

Karen Witt

Karen Witt - January 10, 2015 at 03:35 AM



“ Every time I saw Joy, wherever we were, on an airplane, in a hotel anywhere in the world, she greeted me with her sweetest of smiles and a warm embrace. I was blessed to have 'accidentally' run into Joy 2 times after I left World, once in the PHX a/p and once in the FRA a/p. A surprise to both of us, we hugged in glee, & spent those times happily catching up. I will never forget Joy. She was a sweet and true lady. My deepest sympathy to all her family.

Karen Fischer - January 07, 2015 at 08:45 AM



“ I had the privilege of knowing Joy as a friend and mother-in-law and we had many great times together. But I think I really saw the best of her when she became “Grandma Joy” to my little girl almost a year ago. I’m sad for myself and for everyone who knew Joy. But I’m saddest for my daughter who won’t have the opportunity to know (or remember) her Grandma Joy, who loved her so very much. We’ll make sure that little Ingrid knows all about her as she grows up and that her spirit and memory will live on.

Quentin Vaughan - January 05, 2015 at 02:38 PM



“ When somebody dies,
a cloud turns into an Angel
and flies up to tell God
to put another flower on a pillow.

A bird gives the message back to the world and sings a silent prayer that makes the rain cry.

People disappear,
but they never really go away.

The spirits up there put the Sun to bed, wake up the grass and spin the earth in dizzy circles.

Sometimes you can see them dancing in a cloud during the daytime
when they're suppose to be sleeping.

They paint the rainbow and also the sunsets and make waves splash and tug at the tide.

They toss shooting stars and listen to wishes.

And when they sing wind songs, they whisper to us,

“Don't miss me TOO MUCH...the view is NICE,

and I'M DOING JUST FINE.”



“ Dooley Intermed lit a candle in memory of Joyce Joy Erickson



Dooley Intermed - December 31, 2014 at 04:32 PM



“ 60 years of friendshipwhat a gift we shared. Your loss is incomprehensible but I believe that when the tears of sadness ease, the memories will bring smiles. You truly lived a wonderful, exciting, adventurous, fulfilling life and you will be greatly missed.

Louann Pawlak

Louann Pawlak - December 31, 2014 at 08:14 AM



“ The entire Dooley Intermed organization would like to take a moment to salute a remarkable humanitarian and Dooley volunteer.

Joyce "Joy" Erickson was one of our original AIRINTERMED outreach volunteers. In February of 1971 Joy took unpaid time from her job with Pan American Airlines to volunteer with Dooley's outreach program in Vientiane, Laos. She provided vital health care and education to scores of refugees, and provided innovative health education to children using puppet shows and pantomime. Joy also put together packages of donated clothing, visited patients in hospitals and did everything she possibly could to provide care to the sick and injured and alleviate suffering. While serving with Dooley Intermed in Vientiane she also happened to meet a handsome young US Air Force pilot who she ended up marrying. Her daughter, Amy Erickson Vaughan has reported the sad news that Joy lost her life last week, just before Christmas, in a tragic hit and run incident.

Joy was a remarkable woman who led an exemplary life reaching out to help people in need. The world needs more people like Joy.

On behalf of all of us at Dooley Intermed we sincerely send our deepest condolences to the entire Erickson family.

Amy Erickson - December 31, 2014 at 12:36 AM



“ Mom--the past few months were so much fun. Ingrid lit something up inside of you and I have never seen you so happy. We had so many great trips together--South Africa, Egypt, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, plus Thanksgivings in Sedona. I miss you so much.

Amy Erickson - December 31, 2014 at 12:35 AM



“ Joy was the perfect name for her as she brought joy to all who know her. Have so many memories of us in different casinos all over the world. Heaven gained an Angel and we lost a piece of our heart. RIP, my dear friend.

donna korman - December 29, 2014 at 06:54 PM