



Joy R. Leber

May 20, 1930 - January 4, 2024

Joy Risser Leber, 94, journeyed home to meet her Lord face to face on Thursday, January 4, 2024, at Evergreen in Masonic Village, Elizabethtown. Born May 20, 1929, to Samuel B. and Mary E. Risser of Elizabethtown, she was married for 73 years to James E. Leber.

A 1947 graduate of Elizabethtown High School, Joy took classes at Penn State University and earned a B.S. in Home Economics and Nutrition from Bob Jones University and Elizabethtown College in 1951 where she met James Leber. They married at St. Paul's EUB Church, Elizabethtown, on August 20, 1950 and lived together in York and Zion's View, and in Pottsville, but spent most of their lives in Elizabethtown. Joy and Jim built their home on Groff Avenue where they raised nine of their ten children.

At the time of her death, Joy was the longest and oldest living member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Elizabethtown. While raising her children, Joy volunteered and served on the Board of Directors of a local day care center and tutored elementary school children.

Beyond her all-consuming task of caring for her family, her work history included serving as a coin counter for York Bus Company, a telephone operator, a schoolteacher at Risser's one-room schoolhouse on Hershey Road, a receptionist in a doctor's office, and later, as the manager of the LGH Gift Shop at Women & Babies Hospital, Lancaster, for ten years.

In her youth, Joy studied tap dancing, played field hockey and basketball, and could be found climbing trees and roller skating down the street with her

friend. Her gifts revolved around her intellect, faith, and love of art and music; she played the piano and violin and sang beautifully. Joy created detailed clothing, knitted sweaters for her family, and was an excellent cook, known for her apple and lemon sponge pies. Momma Joy instilled a love of the outdoors in her children, whether growing flowers, hiking through the woods at Governor Dick, or walking along the beach. Joy was a giver: she brought smiles to so many by giving the gift of hospitality and care to all she met, somehow finding time to write cards and letters to penpals around the world. In addition to her husband Jim, Joy is survived by children Holly, wife of Henry Miller, Strasburg; Merry, wife of Al Muzychka, Philadelphia; Jennifer, wife of Keith Kreiser, Columbia; Valerie Shreiner, Ephrata; Jerry Leber, Elizabethtown, Patrick Leber (wife Jennifer), Elizabethtown; Michael Leber (wife Lisa), Enola; Matthew Leber (wife Deniece), Manheim; Clifford Leber, Elizabethtown. Joy is survived by nine grandchildren: Nate Leber, Luke Miller, Amanda Macasevich, Amelia Miller, Andrew Leber, Laken Leber, Karlie Leber, Molly Leber, Grace Leber; and six great-grandchildren: Gabby, Airiona, Aleaha and Rinzler Leber, Mattaya and Mason Compton. Joy joins her son, Mark Alan Leber, in eternal life.

A celebration of Joy's life and resurrection will be held at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 398 N. Locust Street, Elizabethtown PA 17022 on Wednesday, January 10, at 11 a.m. Visitation of family and friends will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. The Rev. Dr. David Woolverton will officiate. The family wishes to thank the staff of Evergreen at Masonic Village for their special care. Interment will take place at Mount Tunnel Cemetery.

Previous Events

Visitation

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

St Paul's United Methodist Church
398 North Locust Street
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Celebration of Life Service

JAN 10. 11:00 AM (ET)

St Paul's United Methodist Church
398 North Locust Street
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Tribute Wall

DE

“ My name is Dottie Ezard and I volunteered with Joy years ago at LGH Women & Babies Gift shop. I used to tell her she really lived up to her name as she was such a "joy" to work with. She was always smiling and upbeat with such a positive attitude that it was a pleasure to work with her. If I ever told anyone that I worked for her, she always reminded me that I worked "with" her, not "for" her. She was not my boss! Years later, after she had retired, Carole Lou Long who also worked there and I used to pick her up at home and take her along with us for lunch. I did meet your dad at that time, as well as some of you children if you happened drop in to the shop. One year Joy gave me a copy of Holly's lovely CD, "I Am With You", of her singing many familiar hymns, which I still play sometimes when I need some soothing music. When I read Joy's obituary I learned things that I never knew about your mother, especially from her young days. I cannot attend the service tomorrow, but I send you my thoughts and memories.

Blessings, Dottie Ezard

Dottie Ezard - January 09, 2024 at 12:26 PM

LP

Dear Merry, today my mother, Georgina Crowe Prokopchak, and Leisa Leber both told me about the passing of your mom. It was the first I learned about the friendship between our mothers who is also 94. I am not ready to loose my mom and hope for many more years with her. I will be thinking about you today as you are dealing with all the B preparations to honor your mom. Love and blessings to you. Lina

Lina Prokopchak - January 09, 2024 at 01:59 PM

AV

Dearest Valerie, Keeping you and your family in my thoughts. I remember your sweet mother, so lovely and amazingly cheerful... when you and I were hanging out at you house back in our high school days. Sending love an hugs to you. Ann Walmer de Vitry

Ann de Vitry - January 15, 2024 at 01:40 PM

VL

Dearest Ann, Thank you for your very kind message about my mother and our good memories!

Good to hear from you Ann!

Blessings, love and hugs to you!

Valerie 😊

Valerie Leber~Shreiner - September 20, 2024 at 11:06 PM