



## Gloria Jean O'Connor

October 9, 1957 - March 20, 2021

Gloria Jean (Atkins) O'Connor passed away peacefully at War Memorial Hospital with her family by her side on Saturday, March 20, 2021. Gloria was born October 9, 1957, in Sault Ste. Marie to the late Eugene and Clara (Schimittou) Atkins. Anybody who knew her knew her as Jeannie and that Gloria was only to be used by her parents when she was being a mischievous child.

Jeannie was a member of the Sault High graduating class of 1976. She then went on to earn her bachelor's degree in history at Lake Superior State University in 1994, followed by her bachelor's in teaching from Michigan State University in 1995. She finished her education by earning her master's of education in technology and curriculum from the University of Phoenix in 2006. She began her teaching career for the Sault Area Public Schools shortly after obtaining her first bachelor's degree. She then met the love of her life, John O'Connor, and married on June 27, 1998. After their wedding, they relocated to Quincy, Massachusetts where she was a post-secondary education teacher at South Shore Educational Collaborative until she retired. Jeannie was a member of Algonquin United Methodist Church and Quincy Community United Methodist Church. She was a lifetime member of the VFW Women's Auxiliary and co-founder of Slashing Ashmun with her former classmate, Don Kelly. Jeannie enjoyed crafting with her sister and nieces, debating with her brothers, being the family technology guru, and talking

about anything and all things history. Most of all, Jeannie enjoyed spending time with her family, especially her nieces and nephews - her most important and favorite job was being an aunt.

Jeannie is survived by her husband, John, Aunt Jewel Bullard of Nashville, Tennessee. Her brothers: Bob (Bonnie) Atkins, James (Bev) Atkins, and Bill Atkins. Her sister: Rachel (Jeff Krull) Pratt all of the Sault. Her in-laws: Dottie (Tom) Connell, Maureen O'Connor, Anne (Kaki) Clark, Colleen (Bob) O'Connor, Theresa (Barry) Peabody, Dan O'Connor, and Frank (Rob) O'Connor. Also, surviving are her many nieces and nephews as well as many great-nieces and nephews - all her pride and joy.

Jeannie was preceded in death by her parents as well as her sisters-in-law, Denise Atkins, Mary Miliano, and Nora Boylan, and her brother-in-law, Pete Pratt.

A private service will be held at a later date for the immediate family.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to either Algonquin United Methodist Church or Quincy Community United Methodist Church.

Burial will be at Donaldson Cemetery in the spring.

# Tribute Wall

BU

“ *A great educator and caring friend. Thank you for all the memories.*

Bunnie - May 10, 2021 at 12:00 AM

HI

“ *I cannot describe how I feel. Mrs. O'Connor been such a wonderful teacher. She and I had a bet in my senior year. She got tired of seeing me in my "punk" and "goth clothes. Told me to dress pink for a good month. Just to break out of my habit. There are so many other great memories of her I have. But that one memory means a lot. I am deeply sorry that you guys lost a great woman. Just remember she'll always be looking down on each of you.*

*-hillary*



Hillary - March 26, 2021 at 12:00 AM

CN

“ *My Dearest Friend, I was not ready this. I just thought we would have more time. However, I must say yours was a life well lived. You packed so much living into the time that you had. I do not believe you had any idea how much love and joy you brought to those around you. You just could not help yourself but look on the sunny side of even the worst situation. Just one of the many reasons I loved you so. It was so wonderful to see you and John together, you brought each other such happiness, the perfect couple indeed. Thank you for sharing your life with me, thank you for all the wonderful memories, and thank you for your friendship. I love you Dear Friend, RIP until we meet again. Your Friend Charleen*

Charleen Nettleton North - March 26, 2021 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Jeanie's passing. She was also so kind. I remember her helping with Sunday school and her beautiful singing voice.

Sincerely,  
Laura Anderson (Dost)



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**Laura Anderson** - March 25, 2021 at 12:00 AM

SJ

“ Our prayers and thoughts go out to John and family and the Atkins family.

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**Suzanne Jones** - March 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ Jeannie was also a prolific writer, sharing beautiful stories of love and compassion for her family as well as her passion for Jesus. She was a tremendous preacher and a reliable resource for organizing liturgy and worship. She helped more than one Pastor at QCUMC with pastoral work as well as training us in all things technical. She was a stalwart fan of Harry Potter and made all things possible for the enchantment of the children. Her passing is a tremendous surprise but remembering her faith brings comfort to the sorrow we now carry. John, our love and prayers reach across to you from many miles at this very difficult times. You had a special bond with one another. I will always remember your Friday night dates. May Fridays continue to be a special time for you as you remember your loving times. Go with God, Becky



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**Pastor Becky** - March 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

DN

“ Jeannie was a special lady and no one will forget her. I have always admired your devotion to each other. You two are a fine example of what a marriage should be. love you , dorothy nogueira

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**dorothy m nogueira** - March 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Jeannie always treated our family with such warmth & caring. She was there for so many of our important moments as a family & we are forever grateful. Her smile each time she saw us esp the lil ones will never be forgotten. So sorry for your loss.

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**Steve, Sarah, Stevie & Aurora Morgan** - March 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ John:

*Sending prayers and please accept my condolences for your loss. I am grateful and honored to have known Jeanne, she was an incredible person.*

*Kent Pepe*

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**Kent Pepe** - March 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Your lovely smile, beautiful singing voice, your craft skills, your special sermons will be deeply missed. You touched alot of hearts. Love you,

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**Janet McGonigle** - March 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ *What a wonderful tribute to Jeanie.  
So sorry for your loss*

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**Kathryn Bineau & Kevin Carter** - March 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ *So sadden by the news. Fond memories of  
Jeannie at Toastmasters. My prayers are with  
all of you.*

*Tricia (Mahan) McKenna*



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**Patricia McKenna** - March 23, 2021 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ *John I am sorry to hear of the loss of your wife. Jennie was an aide  
on my special Ed buss in the Soo, and was loved by all the  
students. I know that she has a place in heaven*

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**Dave Allen** - March 23, 2021 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ *I am deeply saddened*

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**Roger Swenson** - March 23, 2021 at 12:00 AM