



Joan Patricia Benz

December 1, 1949 - August 30, 2025

Joan Benz of Arnolds Park, IA; formerly of Melvin, IA; passed away at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD on Saturday, August 30, 2025.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Arrangements are under the direction of the Robinson Funeral Home in Spirit Lake, IA. Online condolences may be directed to www.spiritlekefuneralhome.com

Joan Patricia Benz was born on December 1, 1949, in Derby, CT; to Kenneth and Ruth (DiCapua) Gagnon. Growing up in a military family, Joan graduated from a high school in Wiesbaden, Germany. Joan worked in New York City in the late 1960's for an airline doing travel bookings. She was united in marriage to John Benz on August 15, 1970 in Shelton, CT. They eventually moved to northwest Iowa in the early 1970's. For nearly 45 years, Joan owned and operated Sunset Travel Agency in Milford, IA and Sibley, IA which allowed her to continue her love for travel.

She was a member of the American Lutheran Church in Melvin. In her free time, she enjoyed traveling, painting, tending to her flower and vegetable garden, entertaining family and friends, and cooking and caring for her family. Joan always had a warm smile and a kind heart. She was generous to many people and always treated everyone with respect. Joan was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and a good friend to many.

She is survived by her husband John Benz of Arnolds Park, IA; formally Melvin, IA; daughter Allison (Kevin) Rossan and their son Jack of Gridley, CA; son Eric (Tessa) Benz and their daughter Kinsley of Foster City, CA; siblings Karen, Bruce, Laura, Lynn and Leslie. She was preceded in death by her parents.

The family requests that, instead of flowers, memorial contributions be made to:
Next Life Foundation in memory of Joan Benz.

2106 Tarzan St. Okoboji, IA 52355

www.nextlifefound.org

EIN 46-5588534

Tribute Wall

LE

“ I remember talking to you about pythagorean theory, time travel and so many things folks dont say just everyday. And hi ho silver is breaking out and i miss celebrating all of that with you. I know without a doubt and am grateful to God that in my life you were more than my sister, you were our teacher. Till we can speak of all of the mysteries of life again; long may you fly my sister.

Leslie - October 03, 2025 at 09:48 AM

LE

When lies are told they become wrecking balls of irreversable damage. Do not let your history become your destiny.

Leslie - May 06 at 04:08 PM

DS

“ Darcy K Schultz lit a candle in memory of Joan Patricia Benz



Darcy K Schultz - September 09, 2025 at 01:12 AM

AJ

“ Alesia Johnson lit a candle in memory of Joan Patricia Benz



Alesia Johnson - September 08, 2025 at 01:13 PM

DR

“ Our deepest sympathy. Joan helped us on family trips and helped make suggestions for so many years. A huge help and advisor. Just a wonderful person! God bless you at this difficult time. Dave & Kris Rowley

Dave & Kris Rowley - September 05, 2025 at 09:29 AM

JD

“ *Jim & Jan Danbom lit a candle in memory of Joan Patricia Benz*



Jim & Jan Danbom - September 04, 2025 at 08:41 AM

MF

“ *Mary Franken lit a candle in memory of Joan Patricia Benz*



Mary Franken - September 03, 2025 at 02:14 PM

MF

“ *John and I would like to share our sympathies! He had just had a nice talk with her about a couple weeks prior on his walk to the park. She was very chatty that day he says ;-)* was always fun to talk to Jack and Joan! She is a little firecracker ;-)
Will miss watching her fuss with all her little flowers and plants too. She will be missed!
John and Mary Franken

Mary Franken - September 03, 2025 at 02:09 PM

PM

Mike and I are very saddened to hear of Joan's passing. We go way back and had recently had the pleasure of talking to Jack and Joan at Nektar. We send our deepest condolences to Jack and the family. ❤️ God Bless.

Par Monnahan - September 10, 2025 at 03:48 PM

LH

“ Jack, Ali & Eric, We go back so many years as being neighbors in Melvin where our 2 boys grew up together. You were like 2nd parents to Adam by including him in going to Minneapolis to ballgames & having him over a lot. We would go on bus trips as chaperons to the tulip festival since the boys were in the band & have a ball. Laugh, laugh, laugh, Joan was always smiling. When I was the Senior Spirit coordinator for the bank Joan would go along & help with whatever I choose to do. Christmas lighting to different towns on a bus was great as she'd chime right in & help me get the group singing Christmas carols. She was a fantastic hostess as she would entertain all the bank employees (& their mates) at the lake home for an afternoon of fun. It saddens me to think those years were so long ago, but on the other hand it puts a smile on my face that those many years ago I got to know & enjoy her. Remembering her smile will bring smiles to many others. My deepest sympathy to all of you, Lori Hoffman

Lori Hoffman - September 03, 2025 at 08:44 AM

DB

“ I sure will miss her beautiful smile and beautiful soul. She was always like a ray of sunshine. This little fighter will definitely be missed.



Deb B - September 03, 2025 at 07:14 AM



“ Oh so sorry to hear. She was a trouper. She led a group of gals to Germany and Austria for the Christmas Markets and we all so enjoyed each other. Since then she has been a dear friend. I will miss seeing that "big" smile!! Until we meet again. Sandy

Sandra Dau - September 02, 2025 at 06:45 PM

RT

“ Ray And Diane Tucker lit a candle in memory of Joan Patricia Benz



Ray and Diane Tucker - September 02, 2025 at 05:39 PM

FK

“ Fred Kaminska lit a candle in memory of Joan Patricia Benz



Fred Kaminska - September 02, 2025 at 04:00 PM

HB

“ Jack, Allison & Eric - we love you all so much & were so saddened to learn of Joan's passing. Where to begin with all of the Okoboji memories through the years? I can't begin to count the number of times we would drive up to the Lake on Sundays, boat around and eventually pull up to your dock. I remember Joan always making sure that we kids all had life jackets on when we wanted to swim! :-) I remember visiting when Eric was born, playing with Allison and (Maggie??) next door, walking to Arnolds Park - so many good times. And, no matter how inconvenient it may truly have been when we stopped in (even if the 4 of you had JUST sat down to eat a meal), Joan would insist that we all come in and join you! Always such a gracious, fun & loving hostess! I will always remember her hugs, her laugh, her wonderful smile and so many wonderful times together. Sending all of our love to all of you. Heidi (Dixon) Brown

HEIDI BROWN - September 02, 2025 at 03:20 PM

JW

“ I am so sorry to hear this. I loved working with Joan at the travel agency. She was always so helpful and enthusiastic about her work. I loved our Melvin connection, too.
She will be missed by so many.
Praying for comfort for all who knew and loved her.

Jo Winkowitsch - September 02, 2025 at 10:32 AM

JO

“ Jim O'Neill lit a candle in memory of Joan Patricia Benz



Jim O'Neill - September 02, 2025 at 09:24 AM

AH

“ *Autume Hamner lit a candle in memory of Joan Patricia Benz*



Autume Hamner - September 02, 2025 at 09:07 AM

FJ

“ *Fran Jungjohan lit a candle in memory of Joan Patricia Benz*



Fran Jungjohan - September 02, 2025 at 08:44 AM

NR

“ *Nancy Rees lit a candle in memory of Joan Patricia Benz*



Nancy Rees - September 01, 2025 at 01:24 PM