



Jan Denise Peterson

July 4, 1960 - May 3, 2008

Jan Denise Peterson, 47, formerly of Boone, Iowa passed at the Harmony House Health Care Center in Waterloo, Iowa on Tuesday morning, April 29, 2008. After her illness in 1992, she was a resident at On With Life in Ankeny, Iowa until 1995, when she moved to Harmony House. She was born on July 4, 1960 in Boone, Iowa the daughter of Denzel and Helen Jean (Kline) Peterson. Jan was a 1978 graduate of Boone High School and obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in May of 1982 from Sioux Falls College, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota in Mass Communications and English Education. While attending college, she served as Station Manager for college radio station KCFS and served as Production and Newsroom Assistant at KELO-TV News in Sioux Falls. Following graduation, she continued with KELO-TV as Associate Producer and Producer, Co-producing the evening news broadcasts by writing and editing stories. In 1989, Jan was promoted to Executive Producer in charge of producing the main evening news broadcast in cooperation with the Managing Editor, a position she held until 1991. Until her illness in 1992, Jan was a writer and producer in the News Production for KCCI-TV in Des Moines, Iowa. Jan enjoyed camping, snow skiing, traveling, genealogy and spending time with her family, friends and caregivers. She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Boone; American Business Women's Association, Boone County Charter Chapter; volunteered for Ski For Light in South Dakota and Habitat for Humanity in Sioux Falls; and served as a volunteer counselor for Amanda the Panda Foundation in Des Moines, Iowa and Dayton Oaks Church Camp in Dayton, Iowa. Her mother in February of 1997, father in December of 1968, brother, Ron, in August of 2005, grandparents, and several aunts, uncles and cousins preceded her in death. Survivors include a sister Susan Sharp and husband Bill of Boone, Iowa; and 2 nieces Kristin Wilson and husband Josh of Boxholm, Iowa and Karrie Peterson also of Boxholm, Iowa; several aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends. A celebration of her life will be held on Saturday morning, May 3rd at 10:00 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in Boone with Rev. John Swoyer officiating. Interment will be in the South Marion Cemetery south of Stratford, Iowa. Friends may call at the Stark-Welin Chapel in Boone on Friday evening from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and at the Church on Saturday morning from 8:30 a.m. until the time of service. The family will be present at the Chapel on Friday evening from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. to greet friends. Memorials may be given to

the family for a memorial fund to be designated at a later date. A SPECIAL TRIBUTE WRITTEN BY JAN Dear Family and Friends, Thank you for coming today. I want this to be a celebration of my life, not a mourning of my death. I requested a closed casket. I want you to remember how I looked when I was alive. I planned my own service today. Thank you to those of you taking part. To my friends and staff at On With Life in Ankeny, thank you so much for all you did for me. My computer and wheelchair enabled me to be so independent! I will never forget you. To my friends and staff at Harmony House in Waterloo, thank you for taking such good care of me. Thank you for holding my hand when I would cry because I missed everyone so much. Thank you for being there. For all my family and friends, thank you so much for being there for me and my family all those years. Thank you for all the things you have given me over the years, for all your visits, cards, e-mails, for everything. I have loved them all. I am being buried today with all of my absolute favorite things. Drowsy, the doll my daddy gave me when I was born, the stuffed bear my niece Kristin gave me when I first had my stroke, the pillow Susie gave me, made from my brother's jeans, a beautiful suncatcher from Susie, a soft cat my brother gave me and a beautiful pink blanket from my dear Aunt Elaine. On my wrists are the beautiful friendship bracelets my best friend Monica has made for me over the years. I am wearing my favorite On With Life sweatshirt, along with my Amanda the Panda warm fuzzies. I am up in heaven now, with Daddy, Mom and Ron and all my other family and friends. I can talk and walk again and I am free of all pain. I am having the time of my life! I can't wait to give you all a big hug when I see you again! I love you all! Jan

Comments



“ To Jan's Family: I was filled with sadness when I heard the news. Jan was a terrific friend and roommate. I will always cherish the memories we shared at Sioux Falls College. She was an inspiration to everyone is met. She will be greatly miss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Annette Petersen - May 13, 2008 at 06:56 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. Jan was the mother figure to several of us while we were at the coo. She always took care of us and made sure that we stayed out of trouble. Her great personality and smile made her always fun to be around. I will greatly miss her.

Fred Holmes - May 12, 2008 at 10:53 PM



“ Suzy, I posted on another guest book but don't know if you will see it. I am so sorry to hear about the loss of Jan. I'm thinking of you. I was also surprised and sorry to hear about the loss of your brother.

Karla Pepples

Karla Pepples - May 07, 2008 at 03:14 PM



“ Susie, you don't know me and I never had the pleasure of meeting your sister. However, I know of both of you through my brother, Gary and friend Dawn. I want to send my wishes of sympathy. From what I have heard and what I saw in the video your sister had a wonderful smile and playful spirit. May your memories bring you comfort.

Mary Wheelock - May 05, 2008 at 01:39 PM



“ To Susie and Family, may I express my deepest condolences. Mike Yuds and I met Jan during a Ski-for-Light (SFL) event sometime in the mid-eighties. I'm not sure how we met, but I am certainly the benefactor of the meeting. We experienced many moments during the annual SFL events that Mike and I still recall fondly to this day. Perhaps one of the most memorable was the day we drove Joel's van on Deerfield lake to go ice fishing. The wind was howling and it was bitter cold so no fishing was attempted; however, getting off of the lake was a different story. We had to climb a hill and only made it part way before the van started sliding sideways back towards the lake. When I told everyone to brace themselves, it was like the "assume the crash position" scene from the movie "Airplane." Fortunately the van didn't roll, but the laughs that it created are priceless to this day. Her illness robbed her of her body but not her mind. Mike and I will deeply miss her.

Rick Johnson - May 05, 2008 at 09:23 AM



“ Susie and Family,
You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. I first met Jan at Ski for light in the mid 80's. From the first day to her last day she has shared her humor, wisdom and kindness with all that came in contact with her. I still review the Ski for Light training guide that she wrote almost 20 years ago to prepare for the annual event. It brings a huge smile to my face with the wit and wisdom that went into that timeless document. From the late night conversations in person with a beer or on the phone after one of us returned from a night with friends the time will always be cherished. I was sad to let go of a friend, but will be glad to see her dancing to the band again. Everytime I watch the 4th of July fireworks, I will always think of her and what a special person she is. Thanks again for all your selfless acts of kindness in making Jan happy.

Mike Yuds-Minot ND - May 03, 2008 at 02:24 PM



“ Jan was a very special person, she had a great sense of humor. She had a way of collecting friends...as well as cows and snow globes! I miss her, and found myself getting ready to do her meds, or just look in on her. It's really gonna take some time to get use to. Susie, my heart goes out to you, you 2 are the picture of how family should be. I'm sure Jan is up there walking, talking and having the time of her new life, just like in her dreams. She was loved and is missed.

Mary Miller - May 03, 2008 at 11:36 AM



“ Susie & Family,

I've struggled to find the words to tell you first, how amazing, strong, and courageous you have been caring for your sister and other family members all these years. That strength, courage, and life-giving spirit obviously runs in the family! I don't remember when I first met Jan. We spent some wonderful years working together at Dayton Oaks Camp. Knowing Jan, spending time with her over many years, enriched my life in ways I can't describe. Jan was a living, walking definition of "abundant life." She lived life with gusto, with joy, and with a spirit of caring and love. I'm honored to have been a friend of Jan's. My prayers go with you as you learn to live life without Jan's physical presence. God Bless.

Jene Bridgewater - May 03, 2008 at 08:43 AM



“ Susie, Our hearts break at the loss of Jan. Her smile and her laughter ring as true in our ears as they days she worked with us at KELO-TV. She showed us so many times the strength or her spirit and the loyalty of her friendship. We can only hope and pray that your memories of her will bring you as much joy and peace as they do for us. You will be in our thoughts and out prayers. Gary & Jaine

Gary Goldade & Jaine Andrews - May 02, 2008 at 04:51 PM



“ Jan was the sense of calm in a newsroom often full of chaos. She was like Radar of MASH. She knew what people needed before they asked. I met her when I interned and eventually reported for KELO-TV. Beyond her writing and producing skills, she brought heart to the newsroom - a place that at times can be heartless. She never made an enemy; everyone was her friend. She always looked out for the new people, defending, nudging, and teaching them. I, along with countless others, benefitted from that. She made all of us better reporters and better people.

Vernon Brown - May 02, 2008 at 04:49 PM



“ I first met Jan when I started at KELO. She was highly valued as a producer and was known for her English and writing skills! Jan is the one who got me involved in Ski-For-Light. I owe her that great experience in my life! What struck me most about Jan was her sense of selflessness and service she provided to disabled people at the time.

Serving as a personal assistant for the disabled was much more than a part-time job for Jan. She cared very much for her clients and was a good friend to many.

I am so sorry for your loss. Jan was extremely courageous!

Angela Kennecke - May 02, 2008 at 04:08 PM



“ I am so grateful that I got to know and become friends with Jan my junior and senior years at Boone High School. She was always such a fun, supportive and encouraging friend. Her spirit and strength were incredibly strong throughout her life and I deeply admire her for that.

Maureen McIntyre Palmer - May 02, 2008 at 02:26 PM



“ My heart goes out to you, Susie. I can't imagine what you are going through. You and Jan are a model of what sisters are to each other. Your love and understanding for each other is priceless. Jan and you have been a part of "our Harmony house family" for many years and she will be missed deeply. I know Jan is happy now, smiling down on us "drinking her ice water" and walking around. God bless you both. Christy Olson LPN

Christy Olson - May 02, 2008 at 01:12 PM



“ susie and family,even though jan is gone we will always love her you are in my thoughts and prayers.I am going to miss the way Jan smiled it was so beautiful also how she would MOO at us.Love Always Shynessa McGhee(CNA at HH)

ShynessaMcGhee - May 02, 2008 at 01:07 PM



“ I first met Jan in 1978 at Dayton Oaks Camp. What I remember best was her sunny disposition and sense of humor. She also had an unexpected inner toughness - she wouldn't take much guff from anyone. Jan always seemed a little larger than life. She named her cars (I think there was a "Nadia") and was a big fan of the Oak Ridge Boys and Tom Cruise. At camp, she always had a number of stuffed animals. One of her favorites was "Kermit the Frog", which was always suffering some torment from her coworkers (okay, mostly me). It brought tears to my eyes when I saw she was being buried in Stratford. She had always talked about buying a house there one day. My condolences to her family. Her loss leaves the world a sadder place.

Kent Prosch - May 02, 2008 at 11:16 AM



“ Susie and family, my heart is full to have known Jan. Getting to know her over the years has been a blessing. To know she is where she wanted to be walking and talking gives my heart joy. She was like a sister to a lot of us at Harmony House and she will be missed daily. Susie, I could only imagine what you have gone through, but you are the rock that Jan could count on. God Bless you and your family. Sincerely- Michelle Ferguson CNA at H.H

Michelle - May 02, 2008 at 10:24 AM



“ I am so very sorry to hear of Jans passing. I am glad to have been able to say hi to her a day or so before. Jan was a wonderful person. I enjoyed talking with her when I came to Harmony House to do an X-Ray.

I met Jan when she first came to Harmony House. We have been friends ever since. Although I am sad that I will no longer see her, I am happy for her that she is now with her family members and Jesus. Walking, talking and loving eternal life in her new body

Jan will definately be missed by me and all those who knew her.

I will be praying for you and will always have fond memories of Jan.

God bless,

Colin Christenson

Colin Christenson - May 02, 2008 at 09:12 AM



“ Susie and Family, please accept my sympathies. Jan, thank you for your smiles and conversation with your computer voice and message board during my shift caring for you. I will miss you rolling your eyes at me and all of your "herd" of cows. Jan will be greatly missed by me and I know many others that knew her. Susie - Jan will not fade from my memories and her friendship has always been held within my heart. Hugs to you Susie.

Barb (Jan's nurse) - May 01, 2008 at 08:56 PM



“ My thoughts & prayers are with you at this time. I attended school with Jan. Ron,& Susie. They lived down the street from us on West 5th Street. She was a wonderful person and I'm sure that she's having the time of her life in Heaven with no pain. She is going to be missed tremendously. She was a Great Inspiration to all that knew her. Susie & family if I can do anything for you please let me know. Just remember that Jan is the ANGEL that is watching over you from a far.

Nancy Wheeler Bolon - May 01, 2008 at 07:59 PM



“ Susie and Family, please accept my sympathies. I had the opportunity to take care of Jan while she was at Harmony House. I will always remember the joy she brought to me. She was an inspiration to me. It was an honor to be a part of her life while she was here. I will keep you in my prayers. Kelly Schubert

Kelly Schubert - May 01, 2008 at 06:23 PM



“ Jan was one of the first people I met way back when at Soo Foo Co. She even roped me into working at the radio station. As I moved away from Sioux Fall, Jan was and will always be in my heart. I respected, admired and loved Jan enough to give my daughter the middle name Jan, after a very special person. Susie, she loved you with everything she had may God bless you and your family for love and care of his special daughter, Jan.

Lora Young - May 01, 2008 at 04:39 PM



“ It was a great pleasure to take care of Jan while I was employed at Harmony house. Not only was it my job to take care of Jan but she also became a very special friend as did Susie too. I enjoyed having Susie stay at my home when she came to visit with Jan. Jan will be greatly missed by me and I know many others that knew her. I know Jan is dancing in heaven right now and is happier than could be. I will always love her.

Judy Peterman - May 01, 2008 at 03:53 PM



“ Susie,
Jan was a very loved person at hamory house and will be grately missed by all of us girls.JAn kept us laughing until the last day I seen her.I remember me and amanda bring our phone in and showing her are funny pic in the hats and how she just gave us that smile like u two are crazy!! I loved Jan so much and she will be missed by all.she had the courger to do what alot of us would never be able to do .I still have her on my phone as my screensaver that we took early this week !! your in my prayers susie and alway know she will alway be loved by us girls and so will you.

mellissa sumerall - May 01, 2008 at 03:52 PM



“ Jan was one of our kids in the youth group at First Baptist in Boone and a joy to know. I know she had been through a lot over the years and kept her faith when it might not have been so easy to do so. She was an inspiration to others that knew her and we are so thankful to God that we were her friends. Susie, we know she will be missed but a part of her will always be with those whose lives she touched over her time on earth. God has truly welcomed one of his Angels home. Susie, you are in our prayers at this time and always for you also were one of our kids at one time. God Bless.

Gary and Karen McCool - May 01, 2008 at 02:44 PM



“ My Banana! I miss you oh so much. I found myself going to your room to tell you funny stories all night, and still planning out your treatments. I know you are up there looking down laughing with us all at Harmony House. I can not wait for the night you come to me in my dreams as you promised ;-) Thank you for all you taught me. I will forever hold tight to our memories.

Susie, I will be there Saturday. Your strength absolutely amazes me. May you find comfort in all the good times. God bless you- you truly are amazing!

Lindsay Skinner (Jan's nurse at HH)

Lindsay (Jan's nurse) - May 01, 2008 at 01:54 PM



“ Isn't amazing that even though she couldn't speak and had such incredible limitations, Jan was able to befriend and build a special relationship with her caregivers?

I worked with Jan during her entire time at KELO-TV and had nothing but admiration and respect for this caring capable young woman. She loved to laugh and to tease back then..and didn't stop after that awful stroke took so much away from her.

Susie..I hope we all can one day understand why such things happen to such wonderful people. I'm betting that Jan, herself, now has the answer and will one day tell us herself.

God bless you and all who knew and loved her.

Doug Lund

Doug Lund - May 01, 2008 at 11:47 AM



“ Jan's family:

I am so sorry to hear of Jan's passing. I worked with her at Kelo TV. Even though she was in the news room and I was down in the traffic dept I really was glad I got to know her. What spirit she had and a compassion for others. She was a great person to be around and she always made me laugh.

She truly was a woman of great strength. My prayers are with all of you.

Sharon Hagler - May 01, 2008 at 11:05 AM



“ Susie and Family,

I want to let you know how honored I am to have taken care of Jan since she came to our facility. She was a wonderful lady. We had a lot of laughs and crying times together. She was extremely loved by all and she touched our hearts. I know that she is very happy now in heaven with her loved ones. You are in my thoughts and prayers. God bless you all

Bonnie Henry - May 01, 2008 at 10:13 AM



“ Susie,

My family's thoughts and prayers are with you at this time of sorrow. I just want to say how special Jan was to me. She loved people unconditionally and was always there when you needed someone to lean on. She was so strong. She always could make me laugh and see life in a new light. Because of Jan, I can see I need to focus my life on my family and step out of my comfort zone to help others. Jan is my inspiration. Sorry we won't be in Boone to help celebrate Jan's life. We love you Jan

Phil Heckenlaible - April 30, 2008 at 10:56 PM



“ Deb and I are out of State and unable to be present for the service. Our sincerest condolences to family and friends. We are so proud to have spent time with Jan and gotten to know her. She was an inspiration in life and now in her death as well.

Thank you Jan for allowing us to be a part of your journey. We are proud to have played a role.

Dann Larmore, Administrator
Harmony House Health Care

April 30, 2008 at 07:56 PM



“ Susie and family, My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. Jan was a real sweetheart she always had a smile for you, and happy to see you. I could count on her to cheer me up with a laugh or rolling her eyes. She loved it when we brought the bunnies in for her to see. She is going to be missed a great deal. I'm so glad I had the chance to take care of Jan. Take care and God Bless you and your family

Stephanie Barker - April 30, 2008 at 07:33 PM



“

Susie and family,

Please accept my deepest sympathies. Jan was a great friend at Harmony House. I could always count on a laugh or a "roll" of the eyes from her. I was lucky enough to see and talk with her before she passed, last week. Jan was a champion in her own right and had the courage to do what she wanted and when she wanted to do it. She was able to make the decision before someone else had to and she was grateful for that. I loved that girl with all of my heart and she has given me a cow doll in remembrance of her and I will cherish it always. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of her life and getting to know you to. You will be in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

Tom Murphy

Tom Murphy - April 30, 2008 at 06:05 PM