



## Janice Thomas

December 28, 1937 - February 21, 2021

JANICE CAROL THOMAS

Dec. 28, 1937 - Feb. 21, 2021

Janice Thomas had a remarkable ability to find the essential ingredients of a happy life and savor them - family, friends, a home-cooked meal, a glass of pinot noir, a good book, occasional travel and, as always, sharing stories and laughs. Jan Thomas passed away Feb. 21 at her home, surrounded by family members, after a year-long battle with cancer. She was 83.

She was born Janice Carol Ouellette in Detroit, three days after Christmas 1937, and lived her entire life in the metropolitan Detroit area. She graduated from St. Rita High School on State Fair Road in Detroit in 1955 and, at age 19, married Daniel J. Desmond, a St. Rita classmate who also lived in Detroit. They had two children, Denise and Daniel B.

After a divorce in 1970, Jan remarried and moved to Royal Oak, where she lived most of her life. She remained friends with her former husband, Dan, who also lived in the Detroit area until his unexpected death in 1989.

She took a job in 1972 as secretary at William Sullivan and Son Funeral Home in Royal Oak, where she worked for 34 years until retiring in 2006. She continued to lend a hand on a part-time basis with the funeral home even after

retirement.

She grew up in a family of five and was especially close to her sisters, Lois and Judy. She had an exceptional talent for making friends - no matter where she went. One example is on her annual trips to Aruba, where she met other couples from the Detroit suburbs and continued those friendships at home.

In her later years, she had a special companion in her life, Richard "Dick" Potts, the former owner of the Mary Jane Flower and Gift Shop next door to the Sullivan Funeral Home. They were a cheerful and sociable couple who enjoyed spending time with friends and family on the weekends - until separate illnesses disrupted their activities.

Jan also found joy in being "Granny" to five grandchildren and, since 2015, a great grandmother to two boys, who lovingly called her "Gigi." To all her friends and family, she was kind, caring, thoughtful, generous and understanding - and a master cook in the kitchen.

She was sister to Lois (Lloyd) Harsh, Richard (Rose) Ouellette, Judith (James) Suppelsa and John Ouellette. She was mother to Denise M. Giordano and Daniel B. Desmond. She was grandmother to Anne (Patrick) Clark, Jill (Philip) Ruffino, Erin Desmond, Daniel "D.J." Desmond and Brian Desmond. She was great grandmother to Griffin and Brooks Clark. She was "second mom" to John Giordano and Emily Desmond.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Mary Lucille and Joseph Everitt Ouellette.

A memorial service will be private for immediate family on March 18 at 11 am. The service will be live-streamed for extended family and friends. Please visit Jan's obituary on the funeral home website, under the photos and videos tab a

few minutes prior to the service. Donations (in lieu of flowers) can be made in Janice Thomas's name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital ([stjude.org](http://stjude.org)). Share your memories at [www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors created a Webcast in memory of Janice Thomas*



**Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors** - March 18, 2021 at 10:07 AM

RD

*There in spirit Danny. Love you and big hugs.*

**Ruth DeMarois** - March 18, 2021 at 10:58 AM

DP

*Thinking of all of you today. Much love.*

**Dave Pacholski** - March 18, 2021 at 11:00 AM

ED

*Brian playing Vincent. So sweet.*

**Emily Desmond** - March 18, 2021 at 11:24 AM

AD

*May Jan rest in peace, my prayers and thoughts are with you all.*

**Ann Dylewski** - March 18, 2021 at 11:26 AM

JG

*My heart is with you today. Denise , Dan and families.. God be with you all. .may Han Rest In Peace. She was a lovely person and will be missed by so many.*

**Jane Giordano** - March 18, 2021 at 11:41 AM

ED

*Jill and Erin, too.*

**Emily Desmond** - March 18, 2021 at 12:03 PM

DO

*Such a lovely tribute to your beautiful Mom. Sending love to you all today.*

**Denise Olsen** - March 18, 2021 at 12:17 PM

CK

*Sending Prayers! Take care!*

**Cynthia Kovacik** - March 18, 2021 at 12:18 PM

EC

*I felt as if I was right there with you, which my heart certainly was. Such a beautiful tribute for such a beautiful lady, Thank you for letting us share in your so special memoria for Jan! (the songs were wonderful, perfect and soothing. Well done!).*

**Ellen Champion** - March 18, 2021 at 01:30 PM

JS

*I will miss my Aunt Jan. She was always there with a smile and support for me with whatever was going on in my life. Never missed sending me a Birthday card, not one. I always knew she was on my side. So many great memories laughing with my cousin, Dan, at his house or mine growing up. My Mom and Aunt Jan were close in age and had alot of fun together. I couldn't be at the service, but just watched it and it was awesome. A touching tribute from everyone. You're all in my thoughts and prayers.*

*John and Sue Suppelsa*

**John Suppelsa** - March 18, 2021 at 07:08 PM

DC

*Sending our love and heartfelt sympathy to the family. Jan, we will miss you dearly . A great friend and just a wonderful person to know. Rest In Peace now*

*Our Love ,  
Dan & Diane Coldren*

**Diane Coldren** - March 20, 2021 at 08:05 PM

CD

*Dan, Denise and family - she was such a wonderful lady. our thoughts and prayers to you all.  
Kevin and Carol*

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**Carol and Kevin DeVita** - March 26, 2021 at 11:04 PM

PA

*“ .. she was my Aunt .. I absolutely adored her. I don't think I ever remember seeing her face without a smile on it .. ~Pauline*

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**Pauline** - July 20, 2025 at 01:29 PM

“ Dear Jan,

*Being a frequent visitor at your house, as Denise and I have been best friends since 7th grade, I want to thank you for making me feel like family (and for all the years of fun and giggly sleep-overs you let Denise and I have!).*

*I'll always remember how you and Denise and I would sit at your table and talk, just us "girls" and how you had a way of being ageless. You'd talk with us as if we were peers and not just two young girls. Thank you, also, for taking that precious time just to sit and chat...about nothing, but to us, it always seemed "something important" or funny or of vast interest to our young minds.*

*What I'll always remember is your laugh. We'd be sitting there at the table and something would come to your mind and even before you'd tell us, you'd put your fingers to your lips and start laughing. I'll always remember how when you did that, I'd just start laughing myself, not just because I knew something good was coming, but also because your laughter really was contagious!*

*Always, when I think of you, I'll remember the sound of your laughter the most. I can hear you now, in heaven, laughing with your loved ones who have gone before (as you embrace the one you loved the most).*

*Finally, thank you for the gift of Danny and Denise, as we all but grew up together (NO, I do not remember Denise shooing her little brother away...at least not THAT MUCH!!). Thank you, Jan, for the gift of Denise, knowing that she was your gift first. It is thoroughly impossible to imagine my life without her...all the years and years of memories we've had together and, God willing, so many more to come, and you will always be a part of those memories as well.*

*God bless you for the fight that you fought just to stay a little longer with your family and friends. God bless Denise, Danny, Annie and*

*Jill and all of us who loved you in life, and now beyond.*

*May your reunions be joyful, your body well, your soul peaceful...for that brings comfort to your loved ones yet to join you...*

*I hear your laughter still!!*

*With all my love and gratitude,  
Ellen*

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**Ellen Champion** - March 18, 2021 at 01:18 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Janice Thomas.*



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March 17, 2021 at 09:27 AM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Janice Thomas.*



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March 16, 2021 at 04:43 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Janice Thomas.*



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March 12, 2021 at 04:26 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**Rosemarie** - March 04, 2021 at 01:50 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**Rosemarie Ouellette** - March 03, 2021 at 06:56 PM

RO

“*Janice and I became friends 70 years ago, I will long miss her. We shared lots of laughs, much love and many secrets. I have comfort in knowing that her sister Judy, was there for her day after day. Actually, month after month, Judy gave her the loving attention Dick and I couldn't because of the many miles between us and Covid. Her friend Linda, also brought Janice warmth and kindness in the weeks preceding her death. Janice will be hard to forget, but so easy to remember.*

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**Rosemarie Ouellette** - March 03, 2021 at 06:14 PM