



Joan Kern

June 5, 1937 - October 28, 2010

Joan Katherine Marden Kern was born to Luke and Margaret (Cain) Marden on June 5, 1937 in Staples, MN. She passed away, unexpectedly, on October 28, 2010, at Tri-County Hospital in Wadena. Joan was united in marriage with Victor J. Kern on June 26, 1954 in Staples. The Wadena community will remember her as a waitress and cook at Westside Café, an employee at Service Master, as Leaf River Township Clerk, and as a Home Health and Hospice caregiver for Tri-County Hospital, and most recently, at Walmart as the greeter with the big smile and giving heart. She loved Jesus with all of her heart and shared Him with family, friends, and most of all her “lots and lots of love” Victor. She read her Bible daily and enjoyed making wedding flowers, gardening, cooking, helping others, being a Prayer Warrior, and spending time with her husband, family and friends. Through the years she had been a key member and servant of Wadena Assembly of God, whether it was in food service, prayer, teaching Sunday School, nursery care, or anything else that needed to be done. She will be missed! Joan was preceded in death by her parents Luke and Margaret; son John; brothers George, Connie, John, Rich, Ken, and Phil; sisters Lorraine, Micky, and Betty Ann. She is survived by her husband Victor, children Victoria (James) Thompson of Verndale, Annette Manzano of Brainerd, Paulette (Calvin) Anderson of Deer Creek, Yvonne (Lowell) Stewart of Sebeka, Joseph (Linda) of Wadena, Anthony of Glendale, AZ, Douglas (Sue) of Brainerd, Melissa Kenyon of Tucson, AZ, Christina (Tom) Kenyon of St. Cloud, Victor Jr. of Wadena, Janelle (Troy) Bowles of

Peoria, AZ, Margaret (James) Kenyon of Staples, and Paul (Stephine) of Park Rapids; 51 grandchildren & 36 great-grandchildren; brother Bob Marden of Staples; and sisters Dorothy Endres of Wadena, Mary Lou Sigfrid of Osseo, and Jeanette Warner of Palm Springs, CA. Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m. on November 1, 2010, in the Christian & Missionary Alliance Church in Wadena, with Reverend Allen Refsland officiating. Pallbearers were Joseph Kern, Anthony Kern, Douglas Kern, Victor Kern, Jr., and Paul Kern. Interment was in Leaf River Cemetery in rural Wadena.

Tribute Wall

LS

“ We will miss Joan very much. We had so many good conversations and hearty laughs with her while she was working. She shared her homemade pumpkin pie recipe with us and it is THE BEST. She loved her family. We loved her too and we will miss her greatly. Our heartfelt sympathy to all the family and many friends.

Len Siegler, Sally Schaffhausen - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SO

“ To the entire Kern family my deepest sympathies go out to each of you....May God hold you all in the palm of his hands and give you the strength that you need to make it through this difficult time.....
Sharyl Olson

Sharyl Olson - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ To the family. I (as just a friend)am so personally saddened to know that Joan is not with US, but rejoice to know that she is with her "Father" and that is where she planned to be at the time of her death SOME DAY, (BUT NOT NOW) We have prayed together right IN the Walmart store when I had a prayer need. What a trooper and a saint. God Bless you, Vic and to yours and Joan's lovely large family. I'll be thinking of you as the days approach when we "physically" have to say "Good Bye" to Joan. Diane and Larry Hahn

Diane Hahn - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ I've known Joan since before George & I were married. I've always thought of her as a sister and always will. I can hardly believe that she's gone and I will really miss her, that's a home we were always welcome in and sure we will always be .

Marden, Gloria - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ I have SO many happy memories of the times I spent with Joan and her family. She was always a welcome presence! She cooked at our youth retreats, entertained us many times at her home and was always willing to listen and pray with me. She also blessed me with personally arranging the flowers for my wedding. I had not seen her for many years until a few months ago when I stopped at Walmart and there she was...greeting me. I did manage to steal her away from her duties for a quick visit and she made my whole day :) She will be missed tremendously until we all meet again in heaven. I want to extend my deepest thanks to her family for sharing her with all of us over the years. My thoughts and prayers are for you all.

Brenda (Nevala) Deutschmann - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Vickie, so sorry for your loss. Sorry we can't be there in person, but we are thinking of you in your time of loss. Joan was such a sweet lady and always so proud of her family she talked about you and all her family often. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Our symaphies to all of you in your loss. May you feel the arms of Jesus holding you in the days to come. You are in our prayers.
Danny & Lurae Erickson Clearbrook

October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TD

“ So very sorry to hear of your loss. I remember the early days of going over to the house and thinking what a small house for so many people, but a home that was filled with a lot of love. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you all.

Terry and Deb Denny - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Joan will always be remembered by everyone she touched. She was a very loving and kind person. I will miss her dearly at Wal-Mart. She was always smiling and happy to see me when I came in to work. Please know that your family is in my thoughts and prayers at this very hard time. God has a plan and even though we don't understand right now we will someday. Hugs and Love to you all.

Stacy Smagacz - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ My deepest sympathy to all of you in your loss of a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Her legacy lives on with all of you.

Linda Marden-Bertrand - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ Everybody loved Joan. She had a ready smile and always an encouraging word. She truly was ready to help in any way and was a blessing to all who knew her. She certainly left a great legacy for her family, and we as friends thank you for sharing her with us at times.
May God hold each of you close in the days ahead. She will be greatly missed.
Our love and prayers, Bob and Char

Bob and Char Dabill - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Thinking of you all in your time of sorrow! Gramma Kern was an amazing person that touched many hearts!!

Jenny Masog-Podratz - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ We are so sorry to hear about Joan. No matter where we saw her, she always had a smile for us..We will sure miss her warm welcome when we go into Wal-Mart..

*God Bless You All,
Janice and Jerry*

Janice and Jerry Denny - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ What an absolute shock to hear the news about Joan. A personality that shone as brightly as hers will not be forgotten. Joan's Christian walk was expressed with such a genuine sincerity that it is a mighty example for us all. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers at this very sad time.

Steve & Judy Kramer - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RT

“ We are so sorry we could not get to the viewing this afternoon but will see you at the funeral tomorrow. We will so miss Joan's smiling face when we go to WalMart, but we will miss her other times and places as well. She was really a special lady. We are so sorry.

Rich and Carol Taggart - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ God has called home one of His saints. My first remembrances of Joan were from my older sister who used to babysit occasionally. In those days Joan was a busy young mom & my sister would come home from babysitting with nothing but good to say about Mrs. Kern. I knew Joan Kern was a person I wanted to meet. Well, in later years I found that my sister had understated Joan's qualities. Joan was never without a pleasant smile & greeting; always had something kind to say and always had time for others. She, with Victor, raised a beautiful family, each of whom she was so proud. To those I know best, Vickie & Polly, you both exude that same charm & warmth.

May all of you be comforted with your good memories and the knowledge she is home with her Savior.

Regina & Ben

Ben & Regina Tellers - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ *I just wanted to say how sad I am of your loss.*

Linda S. Miller - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ *Mrs. Joan was the most amazing woman I knew. I missed her so much after I left wal-mart and every time I would come into the store I would get a huge hug! She was such a wonderful angel and that is how I shall always remember her! I will be praying for all of you as you deal with this loss, please know how much she was loved!*

Tammy Murdock - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

VA

“ Your mom is one of the greatist Christian women I have ever known. You are so blessed to have Godly parents. When I found out we were moving to Chile I desired to have your parents lay hands on me and pray. You are all blessed because i know that she prayed for you always.As your dad still does. Chrissy always says my mom is my hero, every time i heard her I would think mine too. Your mom touched and impacted my life in so many ways i will always remember her with love and joy.

vlaerie Abeyta - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ I feel so very fortunate to have had the time to spend with Joan.. I am one of the many people Joan loved on as a Walmart greeter. One more reason to look forward to eternity!
I love you all

Amy (Kern) Walz - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ Joan will be missed dearly what a very sweet person a true friend, We will miss that big smile given to everyone at Walmart. I personally will miss all those wonderful hugs!!!! love ya Joan rest in peace! Our deepest sympathy to the whole family. Charlene Braith and family.

charlene braith - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ Ken and I are so sorry for your loss. Joan's great smile and personality will be missed by all. We were out of town so we could not make the funeral. So sorry.

Joan ministered to my dad while he was here from MASSACHUSETTS as a home health aide and she brought him back to JESUS. i am so happy that he is in heaven and she can be with him there.

love from the hamiltons.

tomi and ken hamilton - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ Thank you mom for your love, strength, wisdom and faith in Jesus Christ. There is such a large hole in my heart and I miss you so much. It was a privilege and such a tremendous honor to be the one to do your eulogy. I look forward to see you again and my heart takes courage knowing you are in heaven, in God's presence, receiving the rewards you so richly deserve. I have your voice recorded, your smell on your jacket, pictures, and so many memories to hang onto while I am still here. Thanks mom, I am proud to be your son.

Love you so much...til we see each other again. Tony

Anthony Kern - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ I am sorry to hear of your mothers passing Polly I sure would have liked to have met her. I hope you are doing fine and will stop in or call when I get down that way . It is hard to loose a parent but know they are in a better place. Love always Mary

Mary Maki - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ I was so shocked to here that Joan was a sister to George Marden...and Phil Marden..and Mickey Doyle. a small world. I knew all three of them very well and Bob Marden also.

Yes, you will "Joan" be missed by all whom entered that Walmart Store. You were very kind to everyone.And now that I think about it she probably knew who I was also.!!!

God Bless, Maryann

Maryann Riewer - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AD

“ Polly, I'm so sorry to hear of your Mother's passing. Reading this guest book I can tell the apple did not fall far from the tree. You are also a GREAT person, Thoughts and Prayers, Audrey

audrey davis - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

VT

“ Mom I miss you so much already. Don't know how long is forever but seems so long and yet your life here seemed so short. Mom I will miss your hugs and making all of us feel like we were the most important person on earth every time we were together. You are the most beautiful woman I will ever know in my life. Thanks mom. Your children and grandchildren rise up and call you blessed! Love you my dear mother.

Vickie Thompson - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Joan was the most wonderful woman i have ever met. She was always so happy and cheerful. She is greatly missed!

Jennifer Hodge - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM