



## Joan (Edris) Bossert

March 27, 2019

Joan “Joanie” Edris Bossert passed away March 27, 2019, from complications related to acute myeloid leukemia (AML).

Joanie was born and raised in Bluffton, Indiana. She attended Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, where she earned a degree in Elementary Education and was an active member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. At IU, she met her husband, John Keith Bossert, from Liberty, Indiana, and they married in 1955. Shortly following their wedding, they relocated to the American Air Force Base at Kisarazu, near Tokyo, Japan, where Keith was stationed following his ROTC training at Indiana. While in Japan, Joanie taught first grade on the Kisarazu Base.

Joanie and Keith moved to Liberty, Indiana, in 1961, and Joanie continued to teach, first in Richmond and then at Liberty Elementary. In 1961, Keith was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS), and as his condition worsened and he could no longer work, Joanie pursued her Masters Degree in Education at Miami of Ohio. She taught at Liberty Elementary until her retirement in 1988 and often remarked that her greatest delight was “to see the lights go on when her students learned to read.”

Joanie was an accomplished seamstress, quilter, and knitter, and she enjoyed attending quilting classes immensely. She was an avid sports fan and enjoyed watching her grandchildren at their various sporting events--She rarely missed seeing them play. Joanie always wore a smile and enjoyed a good laugh. Her many lifelong friendships spanned from high school to college and beyond.

Joanie was kind, selfless, and genuinely interested in others. Above all, she was devoted to her family and Keith. She cared for Keith until his death in 2008, and despite the challenges MS presented, Joanie and Keith enjoyed a very happy marriage--They particularly enjoyed watching sports coverage of the Chicago Bears, Cincinnati Reds, and their beloved Indiana Hoosiers.

Joanie is survived by her son, John (Tricia) of Issaquah, WA, her daughter, Susan (Charlie) Kuhn of Glenview, IL, three grandchildren, Allison Bossert, Carolyn, and Charlie Kuhn, Jr., a nephew and two nieces.

A service to celebrate and remember Joanie will be held at 12 Noon on Saturday (August 10, 2019) at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Rev. Duane Modlin will officiate. Burial will follow at Elm Grove Cemetery in Bluffton.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Joanie may be made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society or to the charity of your choice.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com).

# Cemetery

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## Elm Grove Cemetery

3500 East State Road 124  
Bluffton, IN,

# Events

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**AUG**

**10**

## Celebration of Life Service

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12:00PM

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home

308 West Washington Street, Bluffton, IN, US, 46714

# Comments

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“ Joanie and I traveled in Europe during our "salad years". I also played the piano for her wedding. Always friends, I am so glad that John put her on the phone the day before she passed away. It was a bitter sweet goodbye to my always smiling friend!  
Janey Mallers Pautsch

**JANEY MALLERS PAUTSCH** - August 10 at 04:59 PM

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“ Joanie was a 20 year client of mine and was one of the sweetest, most sincere and genuine people you would ever want to meet. I met her after Keith had already moved to the long term care facility in Liberty. She took such good care of him! She eventually moved them both to Northbrook, IL to be close to Susan and her kids. I so enjoyed my trips to visit her. We took the train to Chicago and visited some museums and had lunch at a couple of spots that she wanted me to try. We also met in Richmond, IN many times and lunched at the Old Richmond Inn. She was such an enjoyable person to be around. Wonderful memories.

**Douglas White** - August 07 at 09:28 AM

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“ Our heartfelt condolences to all of Joanie's family. She was a great friend to my parents and she was the consummate lady at all times. She had a great, long life and she will be missed.

Tom & Melanie Caldwell  
Bob & Mary Frances Caldwell

**Tom Caldwell** - April 15 at 09:56 AM

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“ John and Susan: I am so sorry to see the news of your Mother's passing. I will always see her with a smile on her face and a twinkle in her eye. I see her taking your Father for a walk each day...unconditional love....Your Mother had such an impact on so many lives ...students and parents. A wonderful role model. Even though I have not lived in Liberty for many years, it is still a place that has many memories for me and your family is definitely one of the strongest. And, Susan, I still have the little ornaments that you made and painted long ago.....Sending you both love and thankful that your Mother was in my life. Pauline Davidson Todd Davidson and Kyle Davidson

**Pauline Davidson** - April 11 at 08:57 AM

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“ Such a sweetheart will be missed by many people always had a smile

Connie Cowgill Handley - April 06 at 02:22 AM

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“ Mrs. Bossert is one of the main influences on me to become a teacher. Twenty years into teaching and it's still my passion. She had a way of making every student feel like her favorite and I'll always hear her calling me "Sarah, Sarah with an h" (we had two Sarah/Sara's in our class). I'm saddened to hear of her passing. She left an amazing legacy. Sarah Fields Schwendenman

Sarah Schwendenman - April 05 at 08:41 PM

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“ I am so sadden to hear this about an amazing lady, she was such a joy to be around and so full of sunshine. She always put a smile on my face, and the love she had for Keith was simply amazing. I was so blessed to have known both Keith and Joan through Park Manor nursing home in Liberty Indiana, they were more then friends they became family and I sure enjoyed my time spent with them both. I have your family in my prayers and thoughts at this most difficult time. I know they both are smiling from ear to ear now back together again watching IU and some Reds...Heaven gained an awesome Angel.  
love to all, Misty Hubbard

Misty Hubbard - April 05 at 01:50 PM

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“ Joanie was great. I taught with her at Liberty Elementary School. Loved her and the giggles. It wasn't Christmas in our building, until you heard Joanie singing, "Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer". Another teacher and I went over to her and Keith's house and put up their Christmas Tree...while she made us Martinis. Sorry for your loss. I bet you have some great memories.

Amy Blann

Amy Blann - April 04 at 12:54 PM

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“ One of the sweetest most loving people I have ever had the pleasure to know. She was our daughters teacher ,I was room mom that year. If ever you doubted that teaching is a true "Calling" you only had to watch her with the students or ask a question, her eyes lit up! She never forgot her children even as they graduated and moved on, asking for updates at Woodruffs or the Post Office. She was one of a kind

and will be truly missed. Jayne Bennett and Jennifer Bennett Oster



**Jayne Bennett** - April 03 at 08:37 PM

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“ We were so sorry to learn of Joanie's passing. We have fond memories of Joanie and Gerry (Worthman) Irwin staying with us at Street Fair time when we owned the Washington Street Inn B&B in Bluffton. Joanie was also in the same high school class as my brother Bob and Ruthann's brother in law Jerry D. Miller. We had some fun discussions when they stayed with us. Joanie was a fun person for whom we had a lot of respect. May your memories provide you with comfort as you mourn Joannie's passing.

Gene and Ruthann Kyle

**Gene Kyle** - April 01 at 03:17 PM



“ Joanie was one of my daughter Karen's teachers. She always sent a Christmas card asking how Karen was doing. I think Joanie is one of the reasons Karen is a great teacher today. Joanie's sweet personality will surely be missed. Linda Rosenberger

**Linda Rosenberger** - April 05 at 10:40 PM



“ I knew Joanie from the time I entered high school at Bluffton even though she was a few years older so it was great that she married Keith my Kappa Sigma brother. I visited them in Liberty when Keith was bedfast. She was a wonderful person and all that has been posted about her is absolutely as she was.

Ned R. Carnall

BHS 1953

**Ned R. Carnall** - August 07 at 09:25 PM