



Joan(Joanie) Mary Liesenfelt

August 24, 1947 - June 24, 2023

Joan (Joanie) Mary Liesenfelt, 75, of Kankakee, IL passed away on June 24, 2023.

She was born August 24, 1947 in Chicago Heights, Illinois, the daughter of Mathew and Doris (Smith) Liesenfelt. Her parents preceded her in death.

Joanie was a graduate of Bishop McNamara High School, Kankakee, Class of 1965. She attended Northern Illinois University and College of DuPage. She was a poet, writer, and author of the book, "Cold Paper: A Mother's Search for her Daughter." She was also a dedicated researcher and member of the ALMA search group for many years, helping adoptees and birth parents find each other. She worked at Kankakee Community College until her retirement. She is survived by her daughter, Lynn Ross of Colorado; her sister, Diana Vits of Kankakee, and her nieces, Susan Cornett of Chicago and Jennifer Vits-Cruz of Michigan.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A private celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to Cradle.org or ACLU.org in Joanie's name.

Tribute Wall



“ *Joan(Joanie) Mary Liesenfelt*

October 08, 2023 at 04:39 PM



“ *Joanie was a sweet and kind woman. We worked together for many years at KCC. I never knew that her nieces were Susan Cornett and Jennie Vits... my condolences to your family. It's a small world.*

Ellen (Skelly) Schmidt - June 28, 2023 at 02:28 PM



I'm so sorry to hear of Joanie's passing. She was an intelligent and creative woman. My family will always be grateful for her help in finding my niece. Love and peace to you Joanie.

Laurel Soper - June 28, 2023 at 03:56 PM



Ellen, thank you! And yes, a small world, it is!

Susie Vits-Cornett - June 29, 2023 at 10:55 AM



Laurel, thank you for the kind words and sharing your memory.

Susie Vits-Cornett - June 29, 2023 at 10:56 AM



My sympathies to Diana Vits and her family!

Rose Hedger - July 09, 2023 at 05:01 PM