



Joan A. Gerhart

March 17, 1948 - August 17, 2025

Joan A. Gerhart, 77, of Lebanon, passed away peacefully at her home on Sunday, August 17, 2025, surrounded by loved ones while under the compassionate care of hospice. She and her husband, Keith R. Gerhart, recently celebrated 56 years of marriage on April 5, 2025.

Born in Lebanon on March 17, 1948, she was the daughter of the late Carl R. Kalbach, a WWII POW Veteran, and Verna Williams-Kalbach. Following high school, Joan graduated from the Empire Beauty School in Lebanon.

A woman of deep faith and service, Joan was a member of Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jonestown and Hill U.C.C. in Annville. She served as president of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) in Lebanon, was active with the Jonestown Perseverance Fire Co., and, alongside her husband, participated in mission work with Red Bird Missions in Kentucky. She also volunteered her time at local nursing homes, offering compassion and kindness to many.

Joan will be remembered as a gifted cook and baker, known for her cakes, jams, and jellies, as well as her creativity in crafting. She loved playing card and board games—especially Scrabble, pinochle, and blitz—and was famous for her playful sayings like “Do you feel lucky?” and “Shake the hand of the champ” during her many game-time victories.

In addition to her beloved husband, Keith, Joan is survived by her daughter, Heather V. Gerhart-Shindel, and her significant other, Bradley Zimmerman of Jonestown; her son, Brandon K. and his wife, Michelle Gerhart of Kansas; and

her honorary son, Till (Dagmar) of Berlin, Germany. She was blessed with five grandchildren—Seth Shindel (Alanna and her son Eli) of Myerstown, Aaron (Erika) Shindel of Annville, Cassandra (Jeff) Smithey of Tennessee, Parker (Taylor) Nash of Kansas, and Meaghan (Will) Dervin of Florida; and ten great grandchildren: Aydenn, Lucas, Bennett, Avery, Liam, Isla, Ward, Barrett, Parker “PJ,” and Teddy. She also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Carl “Carlie” (Nicole) Kalbach of Texas; survived by her five sisters: Dorothy (Brian) Zimmerman of Lebanon, Nancy (Patrick) Wagner of Annville, Tonya Fourman (late Robert) of Delaware, Luann Wade of Jonestown, and Lori (Donald) Weaver of Lebanon; and known to Joan’s and her siblings’ children as their beloved Aunt Helen Angelo of Lebanon.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, August 22, 2025, at Kreamer & Lum Funeral Home & Crematory, Jonestown. Visitation will begin one hour prior to the service. Hospice Chaplain Journey will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to WellSpan Hospice, 1503 Quentin Rd., Lebanon, PA 17042, with Joan A.

Gerhart’s name in the memo line. The Gerhart family wishes to express their heartfelt gratitude to the hospice team for their compassionate care.

To honor Joan’s life, the family encourages guests to wear green—a tribute to her love for St. Patrick’s Day, which was also her birthday.

Previous Events

Public Visitation

AUG **22**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Kreamer & Lum Funeral Home & Crematory
5 Campmeeting Road
Jonestown, PA 17038
(717) 865-5215

Memorial Service

AUG **22**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Kreamer & Lum Funeral Home & Crematory
5 Campmeeting Road
Jonestown, PA 17038
(717) 865-5215

Tribute Wall



“ *Kreamer Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Joan A. Gerhart*



Kreamer Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc. - August 20, 2025 at 03:02 PM

BH

“ *A great friend and tough scrabble player - Bonnie & Barry Huber*

Barry Huber - September 02, 2025 at 12:24 PM

EG

“ *Condolences to the Keith Gerhart on your loss*

Ed Gahres - August 27, 2025 at 05:48 PM

KF

“ *Heather-my deepest condolences to you and your family.*

Kelly Fischer - August 25, 2025 at 10:58 AM

JO

“ Well Joan always put on a happy face the past year. She just loved when Donald Trump came to visit. She almost didn't open the door. ha ha We talked about old times at her parents place and the shore. I made sure Keith and her got some chocolate from Chocolate World, even though the expense I incurred was out of this world. She constantly called me Joey. I thought I was a baby kangaroo. Remember the exciting campfire with hot dogs and other assortment of goodies. She loved when Bobby Ream came by with me as he just made her day. We all will see her again one day.

Joseph - August 21, 2025 at 07:01 PM

HS

That was beautiful Joe! Thank you for sharing beautiful memories!❤️

Heather Shindel - August 24, 2025 at 12:08 PM

LV

“ My thoughts and prayers to the family.



Lorie Vragovich - August 19, 2025 at 02:07 PM

HS

Thank you very much!❤️

Heather Shindel - August 24, 2025 at 12:09 PM

DS

“ *Debbie Stoudt lit a candle in memory of Joan A. Gerhart*



Debbie Stoudt - August 19, 2025 at 01:45 PM

HS

Thank you! That's very sweet !

Heather Shindel - August 24, 2025 at 12:09 PM