



Jill A Hansen

October 6, 1941 - July 23, 2021

CRETE- Jill A. Hansen, 79, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family on July 23, 2021 in a Hinsdale, Illinois hospital. She was born October 6, 1941, in Chicago, Illinois, the daughter of John F. and Marguery (Bigelow) O'Brien.

Jill graduated from Mother of Sorrows High School, Class of 1959. Following graduation, she obtained an Associates Degree in Accounting, from Thornton Community College. On February 11, 1961 she married Kenneth D. Hansen and they settled in Harvey, Illinois where they started their family. In 1974, they built a home in Crete, Illinois, where they have remained. February 2021 was a true milestone anniversary of 60 years!

Jill worked in Ingalls Hospital's Business Office for 19 years. During this time, Jill found everlasting friendships that still remain. August of 1978, The Finishing Touch Florist was founded by Jill, her mom Marguery and sister, Donna. Together they opened a storefront in Crete, where her dreams of owning her own business and working with flowers, came true. The flower shop is celebrating 43 years under Jill's watchful eye, it was her passion and purpose for rising each day. Typically, she rose before the sun, drove into work for a full 8 hour day, gleefully strolled through the garden (zinnias were her favorite), would tidy up the house and settle for an evening of coloring while watching the Game Show Network. She was darn good at solving those

puzzles! She worked hard in the shop, with her family and for the community she loved so much.

Jill and Ken became snow birds in 1989 joining the community at Reflections on Silver Lake, in Avon Park, Florida. Jill made many of her dearest friendships at Reflections, many of those friends became her second family. Jill was given the nickname of “Minnie” by the Florida friends, because of her love of all things Disney and Minnie Mouse. Her Florida home was affectionately referred to as “Minnie’s Mansion”.

In 1982, with the birth of Jill’s first grandchild, “Minnie” turned into “Mimi”, and she became everyone’s Mimi. She was the strongest and kindest person, who had the ability to make those around her feel pure joy. She was a light, and found the very best in each person that crossed her path. She was class and resilience in the smallest package. She has been a volunteer her whole life and was generous with her love, time and friendship. She always had time for you and found the right words to make you feel special for being the very best version of yourself.

Mimi treated every customer that came into the shop like family. She created the most beautiful bridal bouquets like they were for her own daughters. She comforted those that came in for flowers for loved ones that had passed and consoled strangers with hugs and prayers. She found happiness in the little things. She was the master of gift giving and any gift from Mimi was adorned with care, love and just a bit of sparkle, making each gift look like a piece of art. She is loved by an entire town, honored and respected as the “Queen Bee” of our multi-generational hive of worker bee women. She is a role model and mentor to women and young girls alike, has always reminded us to plant our own garden (not to expect someone to do it for you) and celebrate our successes, no matter the size.

In addition to her husband Kenneth Hansen, Jill is survived by her daughters; Holly Milburn of Crete and Heather Hansen (Chris Collins) of Sycamore; Six grandchildren, Stacey Gornor (Chris) of Crete, Giana Poerio of Champaign, Illinois, Justin Collins of Elgin, Illinois, Anthony Poerio of Fairbanks, Alaska, Colby Collins of Elgin, Illinois, and sister, Donna Dancik (Jim) of Anderson, South Carolina; many nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, Jill is preceded in death by her brother, John Francis O'Brien and her son-in-law, Ken Milburn.

A Celebration of Remembrance will take place in the near future, with a party that will make her proud.

Those who wish to remember Jill in a special way, can honor her memory with a donation to: "The Queen's Kindness Garden" at 563 W. Exchange Street, Crete, Illinois 60417

Don't wait for an occasion to make someone feel special. Do a random act of kindness to celebrate a success or accomplishment. We all deserve a Mimi in our lives, help her spirit live on. It's Mimi's way of still running the show from Heaven.

Tribute Wall

WJ

“ *Jill was one of b the kindest, most caring people I knew. She was my Mother's friend when they worked together at Ingalls hospital and later became my friend. I'll always remember her sweet smile and v gentle ways.*
Wendi jeffers

Wendi Jeffers - September 02, 2024 at 06:28 AM

DD

“ *Jill was my Big Sister always there to help me no matter what. She wore a smile and brought happiness and positivity to everyone she met. Her strength and determination were legendary, nothing stopped her. I miss her every day and know she is up there keeping a watchful eye on all of us. Peace Sweet Sister you so deserve it.*

Donna Dancik - August 03, 2021 at 07:29 PM

CB

“ *So sorry to read of the passing of this wonderful woman. Jill was a bright as her flowers. She carefully decorated a white rose to be presented to each Governors State University Occupational Therapy doctoral student at the successful defense of their dissertation. She always wanted to know the dissertation study and the research results. She had a hunger for knowledge and a compassion for all. She will rest in peace and beauty. Catherine Brady/GSU*

Catherine Brady - August 01, 2021 at 06:22 PM

PB

“ Jill was our cousin. We shared family holiday events as kids in Chicago, sometimes getting to have sleep-overs. But our families lived a distance from each other and as we got older we just didn't see each other as often. Three of us moved out to other cities (Carol, Anne and Patricia) but our brother Bill continued to live alone in downtown Chicago. I'm not sure when it started but for as long as I can remember Jill would make sure Bill got an invitation for Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter to join the Hansen/O'Brien clan for festivities. Sometimes he came with our Aunt Patsy and at the end, just alone. How he looked forward to these gatherings!! Later he would fill us in on family "doings": Heather and Holly's latest adventures, the fabulous food, the wall of family photos, Jill and Ken's travels and so on. The last time I saw Jill was at Bill's funeral in 2011. She just quietly appeared and as we stood talking in our family circle, her presence provided that whole notion of "clan" and family ties...we saw Uncle Jack, Aunt Marge, Donna, Buddy, Gramma O'Brien. She will not be forgotten. No question of the great peace she gave and now receives. Love to her whole family from Carol Bollin, OP, Anne Bollin Kane and Patricia (Peachie) Bollin

Patricia Bollin - July 29, 2021 at 02:05 PM

DV

“ Jill and I met as freshmen at MSHigh in 1955. Our enduring friendship has created so many wonderful memories-college, weddings, children, visits in Chicago and places far beyond. One of the most memorable trips was to the Rose Parade in Pasadena where Jill and FTD arranged special access to all events for our travel group-MSHigh alumni who have kept in touch over the years. Those memories will keep her spirit alive as we grieve losing her.
Diana Venters

Diana Venters - July 29, 2021 at 08:38 AM

JZ

“ Sorry to hear this news. Worked many years with Jill on Happy Holiday with the Crete Chamber. Great lady that I was glad I was friends with over the years through our Florist connection. Much love and prayers to the family.

*Joe and Marielle Zagone
Steger Flower Shop*

Joe Zagone - July 27, 2021 at 03:18 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jill A Hansen.



July 27, 2021 at 01:47 PM

JC

“ Such a beautiful tribute to a beautiful lady that we will sorely miss. My last conversation with her was about caring for our loved ones. So fitting for a person who loved do many.

May your memory be for a blessing, Jill.

Jane Castle - July 27, 2021 at 12:20 PM

BS

“ We have many fond memories over the years with Jill and Ken. Jill has always been a beautiful gem to all who knew her and we were honored to call her friend. Quoting Heather, I am sure she is “God’s new favorite angel”. We will miss you Jill, and know you are in a better place. We will love you always.

Bonnie and Gerry Senesac

Bonnie & Gerry Senesac - July 27, 2021 at 12:20 PM

HC

“ Hillcrest Baptist Church lit a candle in memory of Jill A Hansen



Hillcrest Baptist Church - July 27, 2021 at 11:21 AM

HF

“ Hillcrest Baptist Church Family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Jill A Hansen.



Hillcrest Baptist Church Family - July 27, 2021 at 11:18 AM

PM

“ Jill! She was such a kind friend, always interested in our Village and wanting to help our community. She had a smile for everyone who came to the Finishing Touch and to those she met where ever she was. She will be greatly missed. Phyllis

Phyllis Monks - July 26, 2021 at 10:35 PM

JS

“ How do you know that a woman is a woman to be admired? Love and kindness is like a boomerang...it comes back to you. When I called the shop to see how Miss Jill was doing, wanting to help in any way, I was instead lifted up by all the love that her family expressed for her. Yes, Jill was their queen, and the legacy she left of love and kindness will continue to grow. She planted a beautiful garden of love in our town of Crete, and may her family continue to help it grown.

janice Sanders - July 26, 2021 at 09:38 PM

ST

“ I was blessed to have Jill in my life circle for over 50 years. Of all the people in the world I thank God for selecting Jill to be my friend. Jill was pure joy and the most thoughtful person you ever met. She did not just make you feel special... she TOLD you that you were special. She was authentic in everything she said or did.

Ken, Holly, Heather and all your extended family you have my deepest sympathy.

Sharon Torres - July 26, 2021 at 09:24 PM

TB

“ Jill and I were about the same age and spent a lot of time together during the summers at the lake. She was always great fun to be with and her smile and personality were infectious and we are all better for having known her.
Godspeed Jill.

Tom Bigelow - July 26, 2021 at 08:45 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Holly Milburn - July 26, 2021 at 05:09 PM



The garden at Minnie's Mansion.

Holly Milburn - July 26, 2021 at 05:10 PM

MP

“ We all Loved Mimi so much, she gave of herself to so many. Jill made us all feel loved and part of her wonderful family. Jill always made sure we were welcome into her heart and home. I know I am a better person for having her in my life. Prayers to Ken, Holly, Heather and all of the Hansen's.

Mike and Patty Ann Polzin - July 25, 2021 at 10:23 PM

EH

The first people I met when I arrived in the US, were this wonderful couple - Jill and Ken. Our friendship spanned for 59 years. Being fortunate to have had my "Jilly" as a best friend, confidant and "partner in crime" is really more than I ever could hoped for. She was steadfast in her convictions and dedication, and those of us who were fortunate to have won her trust and love cannot thank her enough and love her more than we did while she was with us. Jill, will always be in our hearts and we are thankful being able to call her our friend. Stefan and I are so very sad that she had to leave not only us but her loving family. Our prayers for Jill on her new journey, for Ken, Holly, Heather and Stacey, as well as the extended Hansen and O'Brien family.

I so love you my special friend!

Elfriede and Stefan

Elfriede Hugel - July 27, 2021 at 07:07 PM