



## Jo Ann Albers

May 26, 1937 - November 14, 2022

Jo Ann Albers, 85, of Bellingham, Washington, passed away November 14, 2022.

Jo Ann was born in 1937 in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, to Tena and Vincent Bevon. She is survived by sons David (Robin) and Eric, brothers John (Joan) and Leo (Anne). She was preceded in death by her husband Jim in 1996 and brother Bernard (Janice).

Jo Ann was raised during the Depression and attended parochial school through high school, graduating at the top of her class in 1955. She played piano and basketball during that time as well as studying poetry and public speaking. She went on to earn her RN certification at Hotel Dieu Hospital in New Orleans, LA. Upon graduation she began her nursing career with the US Public Health Service and continued working on her Bachelor's in Nursing at Loyola University in New Orleans. In 1958 she transferred to the US Public Health Service office in Atlanta, GA and continued working on her bachelor's degree at Emory University.

In 1959, one of Jo Ann's friends was moving to Seattle for a new job. She accompanied her on the road trip and fell in love with the Northwest. She learned of a job opening at the Northwest Kidney Center and applied. The center was doing research on developing an artificial kidney for chronically ill

patients. She was hired. Jo Ann was an integral part of the research team, and a pioneer in Dialysis Nursing. She developed many of the techniques for this emerging treatment and wrote the first textbook on Dialysis Nursing. It was here that she met Jim Albers, who was one of the first kidney dialysis patients and a physics professor at Seattle University. He and Jo Ann began dating and went on to marry in 1961. She completed her Bachelor's and Master's in Nursing at the University of Washington.

The family moved to Ferndale in 1970, where she began a long career at St. Joseph's Hospital, culminating in her position as Director of Nursing until retiring in 1998.

She was the ultimate mother and grandmother. She was the matriarch of her and Jim's extended family and host of many family gatherings. She was a wonderful cook and loved to bake. Her table was open to all. She was active in the PTA, she volunteered as Den Mother, chaperoned daytrips and campouts and supported everyone's dreams and aspirations. She was very outspoken in daily life and very politically active throughout her life.

Her greatest joy during retirement was spending time with her grandchildren, Benjamin, and Samuel, who she absolutely adored.

She will be dearly missed by her surviving family and all who knew her.

# Tribute Wall

ML

“ Having been introduced to my older sister’s friends, I met Eric so many years ago. I was able to be around a little later and became friends in Fairhaven and remember going to their lovely family home. I was ( am) always inspired by Eric’s artistic talents. I don’t know where my observation came from but I always knew he was close with and loved his parents deeply. My mom ( and stepfather) also worked at the hospital for decades. The community of those working to help others is a strong and wonderful one- where it seemed that even acquaintances are held very dear. I have faint memory of my mom talking about JoAnn like she talked about others in her community there- with good feelings. In all the years passed- I have good memories and respect and am sending my sincere condolences- JoAnn- may you be surrounded by light and people carry on your traditions of strength and kindness .

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**Melissa Helzer Lukeris** - December 12, 2022 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ I’m sorry to hear of JoAnn’s passing. We worked together at SJH for all of my 16y there. She was no nonsense with a heart of gold. Sending prayers to the boys & families.

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**DONNA AASHEIM** - December 03, 2022 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ We would like to extend our condolences for the passing of Jo Ann. We shared many lunches and dinners together over the years, as she regularly came to dine at our family’s restaurant. She was always a pleasure to see and she will be missed. May she rest peacefully.

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**Soula Christopoulos** - November 26, 2022 at 12:00 AM