



Joyce May (Jorgenson) Saji

May 24, 1954 - November 5, 2023

Joyce May Saji (Jorgenson) born May 24th of 1954 in Valley City, ND passed away unexpectedly at the age of 69 from complications related to a stroke early morning on Sunday November 5th, 2023, at United Hospital in St. Paul, MN surrounded by family.

She was preceded in death by her parents; Dorothy and Howard Jorgenson (Frances) her sisters; Harriet Johnson (Jerome) and Judy Anderson (Gordy).

Joyce was raised in Valley City-wintering in town and summering on the family farm. She adored and admired her parents, sisters, and their families. Their tenacity, strength and resilience became a foundation and cornerstone of her life. She attended college at VCSU and graduated in 1974 where she met and eventually married Tatsuya Saji on February 22nd, 1975. She was massively creative and skilled as a maker. An example of her inherited determination, drive, and resourcefulness throughout her life can be showcased with her wedding-sewing her own wedding dress, bridesmaid dresses, and baking a gorgeous, tiered wedding cake.

After their union, they spent a year touring state fairs selling chicken skewers and used that income to spend the following year in Japan. Their adventures continued back in the US when they opened Saji-Ya, one of the original sushi and teppanyaki restaurants of the Twin Cities. (1980) She was also very proud of the time she spent in the airline industry working at Northwest and subsequently Delta airlines.

She found a lot of purpose in caretaking throughout her life. She continued that by giving birth and raising two children: Stephanie and Jason (Nicole) Saji. Along with her children she is survived by her grandchildren: Maliyah (Nico, great grandson), Ethan, Olivia, Tazuko, Emilia, Emiko, and Taisho. As well as her many cousins, nieces, nephews, and extended family including friends who she loved and cared for so very much. As she sang in one of her favorite karaoke songs- The Greatest Love of All, she believed and knew that children were her future. They were her pride and joy. Her other loves included her farmland roots, plants, animals, and her many collections 😊.

Stephanie and Jason welcome all to join in celebrating and remembering her beautiful life. We all know she had plenty of pictures to share! Family and friends are invited to partake in any activity that fits their location or schedule. Remembrance and grieving happen individually-please don't feel any pressure for attendance. These options are truly optional-we would like you to find your peace, your way.

- Minnesota. The community room at Overlook Condominiums.
 - o Saturday November 11th from 1-5 pm. Food and beverages provided.
 - o 1700 Lexington Ave S, Saint Paul, MN 55118.
 - o Please enter through the main door. Call #77 on the intercom for access.
- North Dakota. Join for any portion of events on Monday November 13th.
 - o 2 pm services held at Oliver Nathan Funeral Chapel.
 - 251 Central Ave S, Valley City, ND 58072
 - Burial to follow at Hillside Cemetery
 - o 4:30 pm supper at Pizza Corner. Everyone is invited to join and share memories.
 - A pizza buffet and fountain drinks provided.
 - Kids play place open and available.
 - o Stephanie and Jason's family will be staying at the AmericInn from Nov. 12-Nov. 14
 - 280 Winter Show Rd SW, Valley City, ND 58072
 - (701) 845-5551

Cemetery Details

Hillside Cemetery

Valley City, ND

Previous Events

Celebrating and Remembering Joyce Saji

NOV 11. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

The community room at Overlook Condominiums
1700 Lexington Ave S
call #77 on the intercom for access
Saint Paul, MN 55118

Memorial Service

NOV 13. 2:00 PM (CT)

Traditions Funeral Services - Oliver Nathan Funeral Chapel
251 Central Ave. S.
Valley City, ND 58072
(701) 845-2414
o-nchapel@bektel.com

Tribute Wall

DR

“ Sincere condolences to Joyce's children and grandchildren. Joyce will be missed by so many, including myself. Joyce's mom, Dorothy, was my mother's first cousin (Lila Banna Roggenbuck). Joyce's grandfather, Steve Steffenson, was my grandmother's brother. Our families visited back and forth between Valley City and Minot a lot when Joyce and I were kids. Being only a year apart in age, Joyce and I spent a great deal of time together during the visits. She was always a fun, kind and gentle person. After attending her wedding during our college years, we both went out into the world and we lost contact. So many years later, we reconnected when I moved to the Twin Cities area after I retired. We decided to meet for coffee only to end up spending several hours together, looking at old family photos and reminiscing. We subsequently spoke on the phone as covid, medical appointments and immediate family obligations kept us occupied. I wish we could have gotten together more. I would still enjoy meeting her children and grandchildren. My apologies for not being able to attend her funeral. Joyce was a lovely person.

Dan Roggenbuck - November 13, 2023 at 06:50 PM

DR

“ 2 files added to the album Joyce & Cousin Dan



Dan Roggenbuck - November 13, 2023 at 05:20 PM

BD

“ Joyce was a neighbor of mine growing up on our farm. She was a very kind person, and will be missed. Sincerely Beth Byberg Dreher

Beth Dreher - November 13, 2023 at 12:15 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Joyce May (Jorgenson) Saji.



November 10, 2023 at 11:57 AM

LJ

“ Love, Diane, Becky, and Joanne planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joyce May (Jorgenson) Saji.

Love, Diane, Becky, and Joanne - November 10, 2023 at 11:57 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joyce May (Jorgenson) Saji.



November 09, 2023 at 05:50 PM

VH

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Joyce was a classmate of mine. I remember Joyce as a very kind person. She lived her life to the fullest. We have lost a friend and Heaven has gained an angel.

Videlle (Olson) Hamilton - November 08, 2023 at 01:31 PM

EH

“ The Jorgenson family were always dear to my husband, Chuck, and myself. We have many fond memories of Howard and Dorothy and their three girls. I am saddened to hear that Joyce has now passed away. Now they are all reunited in heaven. Sympathy to Joyce's family. Estelle Hanson

estelle hanson - November 08, 2023 at 10:12 AM

JZ

“ To Joyce's family, so sad to hear of your loss. She was a dear life long friend. We had so many fun times. "Sleep overs" growing up and even on girlfriend weekends as adults. We lived miles apart but always close in our hearts. Joanne Zaharia

Joanne Zaharia - November 08, 2023 at 09:42 AM