

On June 12, 2024, Joni Kay Bruch passed away after a brave battle with cancer. She spent her final moments the same way that she lived, with compassion for others, dignity, courage, and strength; and was surrounded by her loving family at the Hospice Suite in Sturgis.

Joni's journey began in Webster, South Dakota, where she was born to Art and Junie Ornes. Growing up alongside her brother Duane, she not only learned Norwegian traditions, expressions, and food but also learned how to appreciate a good sense of humor, how to annoy her big brother, how to love with all her heart, and how to care for others.

Her dedication to caring for others led her to nursing school in Watertown, where she graduated in 1977. After a year of nursing in Watertown, Joni moved to Sturgis, where she found her calling as a nurse at Fort Meade VA Hospital. Later in 2000, she found her true passion specializing in hospice care which she did until she retired. There, she helped veterans embrace their end-of-life journey with dignity. She was adored by her patients for the nurturing and loving care she provided. She became a trusted friend with whom they could share a good laugh and rely on in the most trying times. She didn't expect praise for her hard work as she believed in always doing the right thing and giving it her best. Her compassion, integrity, and hard work earned her numerous awards and the respect of her colleagues, which she took with modesty.

Shortly after moving to Sturgis, Joni met Nick and being struck by his caring nature, his sense of humor and how "goofy" he can be, she married him. Their 44-year marriage was filled with laughter and adventure. Together, they raised three amazing daughters: Kasey, Courtney, and Christina all of whom married wonderful men who became her sons. But Joni's heart knew no bounds - she welcomed Alina, a foreign exchange student, into their home to live with them for a year in 1997. However, this journey did not stop at one year, as Alina became their "other daughter" and an integral part of their family. Joni unconditionally, unselfishly loved all her children and supported them all her life through the many highs and difficulties of their lives.

After retiring in 2016, she enjoyed spending time in her garden, specially making her roses look perfect. She also adored spending time with her grandchildren, actively participating in their lives. Whether caring for them as babies, attending their sports events, or baking lefse together to instill Norwegian traditions and love in their hearts.

Joni embraced life with passion and humor. She believed in having fun, partying hard, and cherishing every moment. Yet, when someone needed her, she was always there - dedicated and serious. She was a loyal friend. Her two best friends Tammy and Debbie were like sisters to her, sharing countless memories, making each other laugh until they cried, and supporting each other through thick and thin.

Joni's kind and thoughtful soul touched many lives. Her legacy lives on in the hearts of those who knew her, forever cherishing her laughter, kindness, and unwavering love.

The family expresses heartfelt gratitude to all the compassionate nurses and doctors that cared for her and were with her through her fight.

Survived by her husband, Nick; step-mother, Anita; brother, Duane (Holly); daughters, Kasey (Toby), Courtney (Austin), Christina (Colin) & Alina (Mihail); grandchildren, Sophie, Brynleigh, Easton, Aydyn, Sydney, Emily & Nicholas.

Please keep Joni's family in your thoughts during this difficult time.

In lieu of flowers memorials have been established to St. Martin's Chapel, St. Aloysius Cemetery, or Monument Health Sturgis Hospice.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.kinkadefunerals.com.

*The family invites you to join them for fellowship and lunch at the
Tony & Justine Bruch House at 3019 Whitewood Service Road, Sturgis SD.
Thank you for your presence and condolences.*





In Loving Memory Of
Joni Kay Bruch

Born
March 28, 1958
Webster, South Dakota

Died
June 12, 2024
Sturgis, South Dakota

Memorial Service
Wednesday, June 19, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
St. Martin's Chapel
Sturgis, South Dakota

Officiant
Father Timothy Castor

Musicians
Marilyn Tysdal
Dr. Barry Furze

Musical Selections
"Amazing Grace" "Prayer of St. Francis"
"The Old Rugged Cross" "Ave Maria"
"On Eagles Wings"

Final Resting Place
St. Aloysius Cemetery
Sturgis, South Dakota

