



Joan M. Odland

January 8, 1936 – March 12, 2025

Joan Marguerite Perrenoud was born in Dixon, IL, January 8, 1936, the eldest of four children to parents Edward F. Perrenoud and Helen Aldythe (Koppang) Perrenoud. After graduating from Washington High School in Sioux Falls, SD, Joan earned a bachelor's degree in social work from Augustana University and a master's degree in social work from the University of Chicago.

Joan married Elmer Odland on August 22, 1959 in Sioux Falls, SD. Together they welcomed children Catherine (Patrick Hurley), Steven, and Julie and made homes in St. Paul MN, San Diego CA, Lignite ND, Washburn ND, Minot ND, Rushford MN, and Rochester MN. Joan's social work career spanned adoptive families, foster care, infant stimulation, nursing home audits, military family support, and elder care. Joan extended her warmth and concern for others through volunteer activities in church, community, and political campaigns. She was always willing to bring a pan of caramel rolls, bars, lasagna, pie, or soup to events.

Joan found beauty in art and created countless stained-glass pieces, needlework, doll clothes, and Christmas ornaments. She described herself as a "frustrated fashionista" and loved books, paper products, art, flowers, theatre, poetry, and music. She dove into party planning, most famously pulling off a remarkable blonde wig flash mob in 2017 to celebrate her granddaughter's lead performance in *Legally Blonde, the Musical*.

Travel was another of Joan's passions: epic Amtrak and road trip itineraries and camping in National Parks – she was one state shy of visits to all 50 (no Maine, darn!). International travel destinations included Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Bulgaria, Ukraine, and Austria. Joan was always one to notice the details – wildlife, cloud formations, and submarines.

Joan's survivors know how dearly she loved them: husband and children, four grandchildren (Ana Hurley, Nora Hurley, Severin Elbich, and Joni Elbich), siblings Leigh Ann Wilkerson (John), Mary Solum, and Charles Perrenoud, sister-in-law Sonja Hernes (Joel) and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends. She had special fondness for several pet cats and dogs (her own and others') throughout her long life. Joan's final act of generosity—out of gratitude for the good care she received over the years—was to donate her body to the Mayo Clinic for research. Words are inadequate to convey what Joan meant to each of us; ripples of her actions and care are a limitless circle.

Memorial Gifts can be given to

[Mayo Clinic Cancer Research and Care](#)

[Mount Olive Lutheran Church General Fund](#)

*Only where love and need are one,
And the work is play for mortal stakes,
Is the deed ever really done
For Heaven and the future's sakes.*

- Robert Frost from Two Tramps in Mud Time

