



Janet R. Burns

March 21, 1942 - January 19, 2026

Janet Rita (Petaccio) Burns, 83, wife of the late Joseph E. Burns Jr., passed away peacefully on January 19, 2026, at Phoenixville Hospital. Born on March 21, 1942, in Norristown, she was the daughter of the late Mary T. (DiRado) and James F. Petaccio. Over the years, Janet made homes (and communities) in Norristown, Pottstown, and Drums, before spending her later years in Collegeville.

Janet was a creator, an organizer, and, at heart, a true people person. She put those talents to excellent use during her tenure as Museum Curator at the Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles, where she brought history to life with her theatrical flair.

No matter where she lived, Janet had a remarkable talent for becoming both well-liked and indispensable. She was deeply kind, highly capable, and a born community organizer. If her neighborhood association needed a newsletter, Janet didn't just volunteer - she organized it, designed it, published it, and distributed it herself.

She was also strong-willed, well-read, and delightfully theatrical. Janet created Muppet kits and recorded soundtracks for her children's puppet shows, organized legendary Petaccio family reunions, and was widely known as an accomplished and enthusiastic grocery-aisle dancer.

Most importantly, Janet was an unforgettable presence in the lives of her family and friends. She was a loving mother, grandmother, and sister - generous to a fault, especially when it came to giving things away. Janet had real ability to make people feel truly seen.

Just like her husband, Janet was never afraid of thoughtful political discourse and believed that changing one's mind was a sign of engagement, not weakness. In her later years, her views evolved alongside a deepening concern for fairness, dignity, and the way in which people were treated.

Janet is survived by her children: Karen M. (the late Thorsten) Woermann, Jennifer L. (Greg) Spack, and Steven M. Burns; her grandson, Daniel Joseph Burns; her siblings, James F. (Pat) Petaccio and Judith Petaccio; and several nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends are invited to celebrate her Funeral Mass on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at 12:00 PM at the Church of Saint Mary, 40 Spring Mount Road, Schwenksville, PA. Friends will be received at the church from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM. Officiating will be Fr. Vincent Burns. Interment will follow at Limerick Garden of Memories.

Memorial contributions may be made in Janet's name to The American Cancer Society, American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, MD 21741, www.cancer.org/donate.

Arrangements are being handled by the Cattermole-Klotzbach Funeral Home. Condolences may be offered online at www.RoyersfordFuneralHome.com.

Cemetery Details

Limerick Garden of Memories

44 East Arcadia Drive
Limerick, PA 19468

Previous Events

Public Viewing

JAN 31. 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Saint Mary Church
40 Spring Mount Road
Schwenksville, PA 19473

Mass

JAN 31. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Saint Mary Church
40 Spring Mount Road
Schwenksville, PA 19473

Tribute Wall



“ *Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Janet R. Burns*



Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home - January 26 at 11:40 AM



“ My Aunt Janet and Godmother gave me my first stuffed animal, later named Teddy. I still own this little guy and I'm 51 years old. Teddy was given to me the day I was born and we were inseparable. As I grew up, a copy of Ranger Rick arrived at my door every month, a yearly subscription gifted to me by my Aunt and the foundation for my love of all animals to this day. I still remember how excited I was to see the colorful cover on each one. I remember her taking me into her home office and showing me this magical thing called a scanner. I remember begging to sleep over and spend more time there with my cousin, Steve, and I remember a variety of adventures that all took place in the back yard of their home on Swamp Pike. Later in life I remember how our conversations got intellectual, philosophical and even theological very quickly. I remember how close she was to her sister, my mother and for that reason I consider Steve, Jen and Karen my brother and sisters. We were all so close growing up. But the one memory that really stands out to me was her honest responses. It was like she almost didn't care if you liked her response or not. It was just honest. That's a very hard thing for most people. It is a very hard thing for me. I admired that quality in her. I want to be more like that myself. So to honor her now I'll be as honest as I can be and not hold anything back or worry how that makes anyone reading this feel. So if I'm being honest, I'm very sad about losing her. I have regrets. I worry about my brother and my two sisters...a lot. But I'm also full of joy...truly...because I know who she's with now and that is an awesome, and comforting truth. God bless everyone who loved her, misses her and wants one more minute with her. I'm right there with you and at the same time I'm excited about seeing her again.

Michael Fanaro - February 06 at 03:30 PM

LF

“ Love from the Kakas Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Janet R. Burns.



Love from the Kakas Family - January 29 at 03:54 AM

CS

“ Carol Spitko purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Janet R. Burns.



Carol Spitko - January 28 at 08:25 PM

SD

“ Steven D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Janet R. Burns.

Steven D. - January 26 at 05:56 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Janet R. Burns.



January 25 at 06:38 PM

MF

“ M. Cormier and family purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Janet R. Burns.



M. Cormier and family - January 24 at 12:12 PM

MF

“ M. Cormier and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Janet R. Burns.

M. Cormier and family - January 24 at 12:12 PM

LO

“ I am deeply sorry for your loss. Your mom was a big presence in my young life. I will always be grateful for the kindness and care your mom showed me when we were growing up. Your home was a place where I always felt welcomed and safe, and those memories mean more to me than I can put into words. Please know how much she touched my life in a quiet, beautiful way. I am holding all of you close in my heart and sending you so much love during this difficult time.

Louise - January 23 at 07:24 AM