

Joan Ruth Anderson Ophaug

November 21, 1943 (Rockford, IL)

August 9, 2023 (Westminster, CO)

Joan Ruth (Anderson) Ophaug, 79, of Westminster, Colorado, died on August 9, 2023. She was born to Kermit and Ruth Anderson on November 21, 1943. Joan grew up in Rockford, Illinois, with her younger sister, Susan, and countless aunts, uncles, and cousins. Joan attended Northern Illinois



University, where she met business student, Steve Ophaug. The two wed a year later and moved to Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky, where she began her nursing career as a nursing instructor and the campus night nurse while Steve finished his degree.

She did it all: nursing, public health, including working in California's migrant farm worker camps, and so much teaching. While Steve's career with General Electric led the couple to every corner of the United States, raising daughters Cyndy and Patti along the way, Joan taught community childbirth classes, breastfeeding, wellness classes, first aid, and CPR. She spent many years at Denver's Florence Crittenden School working with pregnant and parenting teens. She officially retired when her grandson, Ian, was born but continued to mentor young nurses and

staff wellness and vaccination clinics. The pandemic sent her home with everyone else, but as soon as she was vaccinated, she was back on the front lines, providing COVID shots.

Joan and Steve traveled the world, visiting six of seven continents. When they were home in Colorado, they split their time between Westminster and Grand Lake. Joan was an organizer of the 9 Health Fair in Westminster. She volunteered countless hours hiking the trails of Rocky Mountain National Park as a VIP, Volunteer in the Park, and with the Grand Lake Historical Society.

Joan is survived by her daughter, Cynthia; son-in-law, Curt; grandson, Ian; sister, Susan; brother-in-law, Lee; sister-in-law, Mary; son-in-law, Michael; and nieces,



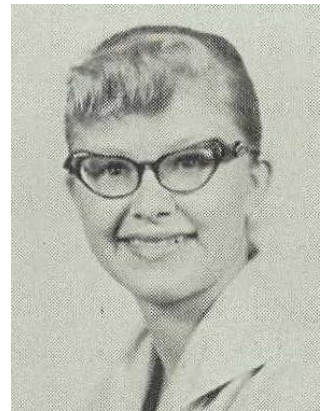
Jenny and Kristi. She was predeceased by her husband, Steve, and daughter, Patti. Service Information Date: Saturday, September 30, 2023, Time: 10:30 Joan Ruth (Anderson) Ophaug, 79, of Westminster, Colorado, died on August 9, 2023. She was born to Kermit and Ruth Anderson on November 21, 1943. Joan grew up in Rockford, Illinois, with her younger sister, Susan, and countless aunts, uncles, and cousins. Joan attended Northern Illinois University, where she met business student Steve Ophaug. The two wed a year later and moved to Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky, where she began her nursing career as a nursing instructor and the campus night nurse while Steve finished his degree.

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The Memorial Service for Joan was held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, September 30, 2023, at Rundus Funeral Home 1998 W. 10th Avenue, Broomfield, CO 80020.



Reference:

<https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/28905230/joan-ophaug>