

Jeanne Lou Zocchi Oliver

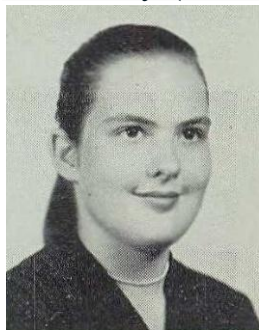
July 16, 1943 (Rockford, IL)

September 16, 2023 (Springfield, IL)

Jeanne Lou Zocchi Oliver passed from this mortal realm on September 26, 2023, after surviving a series of life and death fights with various medical issues, any of which would have killed most octogenarians. It should be noted that she was winning every single fight handily until they ganged up on her and even then, it was close. Jeanne was born July 16, 1943, in Rockford (IL) to Louis John and Inez Patricia (Calgaro) Zocchi. Jeanne attended Rockford public schools, graduating in 1961 from West High School where she was a Library Assistant and Member of Future Teachers of America.

She married James G. Oliver and to this union, one child, Barry Scot, was born. Her family lived in several other Illinois towns, including Divernon, Prairie du Rocher, Springfield, and Riverton. While in Prairie du Rocher, she participated in Fort de Chartres historical reenactments. As are many from Rockford, she was a diehard Bears fan.

By 1981, the family was making their home in Riverton, IL, where Jeanne was employed as a Reference Librarian at the Illinois State Library (ISL), Springfield. In December, 1990, after attending seemingly endless night classes, she received her Bachelor of Arts degree with highest honors in Management from Sangamon State University (now University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS)). During her tenure at the



ISL, she was tapped by the Library Director to administer the newly established US Patent Office Depository Library at the Illinois State Library. Always ready and willing to accept a challenge, Jeanne travelled to Falls Church, Virginia for training and she became THE "go to person" for scores of library patrons seeking to patent their inventions. She travelled across the state providing workshops to teach the patenting process use of the Illinois Library SystemNetwork. One of the memorable projects



she helped shepherd to patent was an instruction model for self-examination to detect early breast cancer.

Despite her Midwestern roots, in 1992 Jeanne moved to Falls Church, Virginia, where she had accepted a position with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). She thrived in that position receiving multiple civilian awards such as the U.S. Department of Commerce Silver Medal, the Hammer award, and the USPTO Bronze Medal - all for excellence in the performance of her duties that included the creation of USPTO's national call center.

In 2003, Jeanne was asked to be an administrator for the newly created Transportation Security Administration (TSA). While there she was awarded a DHS/TSA Silver medal, for creating the TSA unified call center from scratch, and to this day, if you call the TSA, you are routed through the phone system she created. Jeanne remained with TSA until her retirement in 2008. Jeanne was also an avid traveler, completely filling one passport with trips all over the world and requiring a second. Her travel club voted her most likely to meet her demise by being run over by a cruise ship.

In 2015, She returned to Springfield and resided at Concordia Village. Jeanne was such a gregarious and fun-loving person who never met a stranger and always aimed to make everyone feel at home and at ease. Just 3 years after moving in, she was elected the President of the Residents' Council in 2018 and remained in that capacity until 2020. She assisted in the review and design of the Village guest rooms while ignoring all posted scooter speed limits around the campus. In addition, she enjoyed volunteering for many of the staff and residents' programs and events including the employee picnic, Easter egg hunts for residents and grandchildren, playing games and watching movies with residents and their families. She was well known and beloved by many throughout Concordia Village. In 2014, Jeanne was predeceased by her former Husband, James. She leaves her Son Barry, Grandchildren, and a legion of friends as she moves on to bring some organization to the afterlife.

Visitation will be Monday, October 2, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. until the 11:00 a.m. Memorial Service at Concordia Village, 4101 West Iles, Springfield. A reception will follow. Memorial donations can be made to the Concordia Village Scholarship Fund.

Reference:

[Jeanne Oliver Obituary - Bramley Funeral Home - 2023 \(legacy.com\)](#)