



## Jane Ann Rourke

October 20, 1961 - October 6, 2019

Jane Rourke, 57, of DeWitt, Iowa, formerly of Oskaloosa died unexpectedly Sunday, October 6, 2019, at the University of Iowa Hospital. She was born October 20, 1961, to Margaret and Marcus Rourke in Oskaloosa, Iowa. Jane attended Oskaloosa Schools and learned to read phonetically though she had Down Syndrome. She worked in the sheltered workshop at Christian Opportunity Center for 30 years and took great pride and pleasure in her work. She competed enthusiastically in Special Olympics bowling, track and field, and equestrian. Her progress and accomplishments in English equitation through New Kingdom Trailriders in the Quad City area earned her a nomination to Special Olympics – World Games in 1999.

She enjoyed her first jet flight to Ohio in 1995, followed by vacations to see family in California and a week-long horseback adventure in Florida that included Disney World. In North Carolina, Jane and her sister Mary hiked up to a waterfall in Smoky Mountain National Park. After that, Jane lived in her own apartment for 13 years with minimal assistance, after learning skills in a group home. When her memory declined, Jane moved into a wonderful group home in her hometown of Oskaloosa. Requiring more care, she moved to an excellent group home in DeWitt, Iowa, near her sister Mary in Davenport. They enjoyed many simple activities together. Jane was an avid Hawkeye fan. She loved music, dancing and babies. She prayed for anyone in need and enjoyed a weekly Bible study in Oskaloosa. Her favorite things were Jesus and God. Jane was a joy to all who knew her, or even only met her. She will be greatly missed by those who cared for her, and so many others.

Jane was preceded in death by her mom who died in 2015, her dad who died in 1982, and several aunts and uncles. Remaining family include her brother, John Rourke in Cedar Rapids, sisters Mary Rourke in Davenport and Cathy (Roger) Soukup in Urbandale, Iowa as well as a nephew and nieces, a great niece and great nephews, several cousins and one aunt.

Jane's family wishes to thank the medical personnel at Genesis Hospital in DeWitt and

University Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City. They also wish to thank the staff of Imagine the Possibilities in Oskaloosa and DeWitt for so many years of good care and assistance for Jane in their group homes.

A Funeral Mass will be held Thursday, October 10, at 11:00 AM in the St. Mary's Catholic Church in Oskaloosa with Reverend John Spiegel officiating. Jane will be cremated following Mass and burial in St. Mary's Cemetery will follow at a later date. The Bates Funeral Chapel is in charge of the arrangements. Visitation will begin Thursday at 9:30 AM in the Bates Funeral Chapel, prior to the service at 11:00. Memorial gifts may be directed to: Imagine the Possibilities, Christian Opportunity Center, Special Olympics Iowa, and St. Mary Catholic Church.



# Comments

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“ Habitat for Humanity's ReStore Health and Home Staff were truly touched by the presence of Jane! Each of our worlds became so much brighter, because she graced our company. Her smile, giggles, hugs, and "I Love You's" are the reasons why we come to work everyday, and why we work hard to provide our community with quality medical equipment. She was and always will be a precious gem in this world, and her legacy reached far beyond what is realized. We are thankful we had the chance of enjoying an afternoon with her and celebrating her life with a simple Happy Birthday song. All of us at Health and Home send our heartfelt condolences and prayers of comfort. She will be missed.

In Him,  
Melissa Coleman  
H&H Store Manager



**Melissa Coleman** - October 12 at 02:53 PM

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“ Sympathies to the family. I grew up with Jane and John and have fond memories of our time together.

Marla (Sturing) De Jager

**Marla De Jager** - October 10 at 10:17 PM

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“ I remember Jane was always full of smiles and warmth at family reunions. You could tell she loved life and people and had a great attitude. I will miss seeing you, dear Cousin Jane, but will not forget you. Rest now in God's care.

Love,  
Cousin Anthony Richard

**Richard Patik** - October 09 at 03:04 PM

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“ I knew this day would come and would be heartbreaking. It sure is! Jane spent many years with Oskaloosa Special Olympics. Her reminder to all, GOOD ATTITUDE, was voiced everytime we competed. We have missed her so much since she moved to DeWitt. I had planned to go visit her and take her a photo album with all the Special Olympics pictures she was in and I'm sad I didn't get to do that and she didn't get to see it. Jane would send me little papers every year to remind me to set my clock ahead or back and had an enormous heart. We never forgot each other's birthdays and went out to eat many times to celebrate them. The last one was not long before she left for DeWitt at her favorite restaurant, Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Tamara Kirby-Sparks - October 09 at 12:21 PM

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“ Aunt Ellen Patik and Family purchased the Pink Potpourri Bouquet for the family of Jane Ann Rourke.



Theresa Patik - October 09 at 04:39 AM

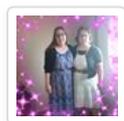
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“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Beth Engelhoven - October 08 at 09:40 PM



“ Jane in the Oskaloosa special olympics team . She was such a joy to have on our team !!

Beth - October 08 at 09:42 PM



“ Ben The Mess by Special Olympics people I know working at coc my good friends

Daniel - October 08 at 10:18 PM

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“ Ben Mess by my good friends I work at COC with her

Daniel Allison - October 08 at 05:40 PM

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“ I remember Janie very well, she use to live at the sturings foster home, and I remember when she was at Norwich, I would go in for tops on Tuesday nights, and she was sitting outside one the bench waiting to go to work, she would always give me a hug. as a matter of fact, I moved into her apartment, when she moved out. and she would come to friendship on Monday nights, at first crc. she is going to be missed.



georgia binns - October 07 at 07:53 PM



“ Jane is a person that everyone remembers . I have only known her less than 3 years but will always treasure all the laughs and smiles she added to my day when I was with her!!  
Karen Kilburg

karen kilburg - October 08 at 11:29 PM