



Joan Watts Wootton

October 10, 1928 - February 8, 2020

Joan Watts Wootton, age 91, passed away peacefully on the morning of February 8, 2020.

She was born October 10, 1928 in Oak Park, Illinois, the youngest child of the late James E. and Gladys (Watts) Wootton. She grew up in Beloit, graduating from Beloit High School in 1946, and from Rockford College in 1950. From there, Joan graduated from Northwestern receiving her Master of Science degree in Audiology and Speech Pathology.

Joan began work as an audiologist shortly after graduation, even receiving her CDL so she could drive the large hearing test bus between schools. She worked as a speech therapist in Utica, NY, Pittsburgh, PA and Des Plaines IL. Later, she joined the Janesville School District, where she stayed until retirement.

Joan was an accomplished cellist, starting private music study in her early teens. In her 60 plus years of playing cello, she was a member of numerous semi-professional and community symphonies and chamber music groups in Wisconsin, Illinois, New York, and Pennsylvania. She was a charter member of the Janesville Symphony.

Joan's other abiding interest was history. She was a volunteer with the Rock County Historical Society (RCHS), where she was instrumental in preserving the history of one-room schoolhouses. Her series of interviews with former students and teachers was presented before the National One-Room School House convention in 2006, and is archived in book form with RCHS. Joan was a long-time member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, receiving special recognition for over 40 years of service. She was particularly devoted to conservation of the historic cobblestone Rasey House, which serves as the chapter house of Beloit DAR. She was also a member of Colonial Dames. In addition, Joan counted gardening and antique dolls among her interests.

Joan was preceded in death by her parents and beloved sister Eleanor Gladys Wootton Holtz. She is survived by nephews Jim (Diane) Holtz, Bill (Carey) Holtz, and niece Mary Holtz (Michael Tuma), brother-in-law Robert Holtz, and many cousins, extended family,

and friends.

Please join us in celebrating her life on Friday, February 14, 2020, at 12:00pm at First Congregational Church, 801 Bushnell Street, Beloit, WI, 53511. Visitation will be from 11:00 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. Friday in the church. Burial will be in East Lawn Cemetery. Daley Murphy Wisch & Associates Funeral Home and Crematorium, 2355 Cranston Road, Beloit, WI, assisted the family with arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to First Congregational Church, Beloit (www.firstcon.org), or the Rock County Historical Society (<https://rchs.us/>).

Cemetery

East Lawn Cemetery

Milwaukee Road
Beloit, WI, 53511

Events

FEB **Visitation** 11:00AM - 11:45AM

14

First Congregational Church
801 Bushnell Street, Beloit, WI, US

FEB **Service** 12:00PM

14

First Congregational Church
801 Bushnell Street, Beloit, WI, US

Comments



“ Joan will be missed by many. We enjoyed talking with her and hearing of her life's journey. She was full of knowledge and wisdom. Our family will hold the memories of Joan in our hearts forever.

The Kraus Family
(Kevin, Kelly, Aaron, Adam, Austin, and Aidan)

Kelly Kraus - February 11 at 06:01 PM



“ Tara J. Tinder lit a candle in memory of Joan Watts Wootton



Tara J. Tinder - February 10 at 07:10 PM



“ I'm very sorry to hear of Joans passing. She was an amazing woman so intelligent and such a honor to be a DAR member with her and serve on the Ramsey House board with her—I learned so much from her. She WILL BE MISSED by all that knew her and her, Legacy will live on.

Kathi Mielke - February 10 at 04:58 PM



“ I worked with Joan for several years during her time in Janesville. She was always ready with a smile and was a classy lady. Bob Dowds

Bob Dowds - February 10 at 02:54 PM



“ Margaret Palubinski lit a candle in memory of Joan Watts Wootton



Margaret Palubinski - February 10 at 01:39 PM



“ It is with a heavy heart I learn of the passing of Joan. She was such a wonderful, hard working lady and a fountain of knowledge. She and Eleanor were dear friends of my mother Nona, who shared their passion for our beloved Rasey House. So taught so much, to so many. She will be missed by all who knew her. Our most sincere condolences.

Margaret and Mike Palubinski

Margaret Palubinski - February 10 at 01:38 PM



“ Robert, Jim, Bill, Mary and family, I was sorry to read of Joan's passing. Her and Eleanor were great friends and mentors to me at Rasey House. I know they felt they were never truly appreciated for all they did at Rasey House. The house was their legacy and you as a family can be proud of these ladies many accomplishments throughout Rock County. Being an only child, it was impossible to comprehend the bond of these two sisters. Know that they loved all of you. Jim, Bill and Mary how lucky to have two devoted mothers. We will all certainly miss them,. What wonderful memories they shared. Nancy

Nancy M. Vance - February 10 at 12:49 PM



“ When I would come up from Texas, Joan would show me around Rasey House and what had been done and what needed to be done.

She was a real hero for Rasey House and a wonderfully interesting woman.

Elizabeth Wahlquist - February 11 at 06:01 PM