



Janet Marian Schechter

April 8, 1938 - February 3, 2022

Janet Marian Schechter passed away at home on Thursday, February 3, 2022 at the age of 83 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Janet was born on April 8, 1938 in New Jersey to Marian Ward and Robert Rodgers.

After high school, Janet worked in New York City at Shell Oil enjoying Broadway shows and shopping in the city especially buying stuffed animals for the daughter she was expecting. Janet loved nice clothes and will be remembered as a classy dresser who lit up a room with her blue eyes and bright smile. Janet was active with the church and made many lifetime friends. There she met her husband and on September 30, 1961 she married Louis Schechter. They raised a daughter Eileen and son Brian. Janet devoted many years to being a loving at home mother of her children including bringing them to Candlewood Lake every day of their childhood summers. She was always there to wrap them in a towel on cold Connecticut mornings after swim lessons. She will be remembered by her children for the many outdoor adventures she joined with the family despite not being an outdoor enthusiast. To her, family was everything, and she poured her love into her mothering. Janet pushed her children to excel at their best and was so proud of their college and career achievements.

When her children were older, Janet returned to the workplace ending as an Executive Secretary at BDM before retirement. During those years, she also

traveled with Lou to many places including Branson, MO where they enjoyed shows together.

For the last sixteen years, Janet and Lou enjoyed the Heritage Hunt retirement community in Gainesville, VA within an hour of her two children and five grandchildren (Ashley, Devin, Evelyn, Emily, and Gregory). Janet was an active line dancer with the "Happy Hoofers" dancing at hospitals and rehab centers. She also loved playing Bunco with the ladies in the neighborhood. Janet continued to love to play games with the family even after her Parkinson's diagnosis limited her mobility. She was an avid reader and puzzle enthusiast.

In her last years, Janet faced much adversity with Parkinson's, and there really is no other word to describe Janet other than a warrior. She did not complain and even at the end was more worried about others than herself.

Janet is survived by her husband of 60 years, the love of her life, and her daughter Eileen Scordy and son-in-law David Scordy of Hamilton, VA and son Brian Schechter and daughter-in-law Cathy Schechter of Leesburg, VA and grandchildren (Ashley, Devin, Emily and Greg Schechter). She is also survived by one brother Jim Rodgers residing in Dumont, NJ.

Janet will be cremated and a private family celebration of life will be held.

Tribute Wall

AM

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Janet was a dear friend and neighbor in CT and one of the first families that became our friends when we first moved there. She will always be remembered for her bright smile and cheerful personality. She and Lou were one of our best neighbors and we will always cherish those memories.

Angie Masini - December 28, 2022 at 06:41 AM

“ Going through pictures, I felt Mom's smile, hugs and love and the wonderful memories she has left me. I am truly blessed. She taught me kindness, love, compassion, friendship, achieving my best and so much more.

My earliest memory was Mom showing me how to feed Brian a bottle and burp him. Mom said I was very protective of Brian but I have no doubt she taught me that. One day when I came home crying, she stormed over to the neighbor to tell the mother if her son continued to throw rocks at her daughter she was calling the police.

Mom did so many things for the family putting us first. In the cold CT winters, she went sledding, tobogganing and ice skating with us. Mom must have been frozen, but it brought her happiness to see us have so much fun.

In the CT summers, we swam at Candlewood Lake. Mom had the patience of a saint. I always wanted to leave the first ray of daylight and pestered her until we did. Then to leave she had to round us up from the floating docks. She made sure we took swimming lessons very young as she never learned to swim and did not ever want us to drown.

Mom went hiking and biking with the family even though she was not an avid outdoors person. One time she even landed in a huge bush of prickles. She taught us how important family is and about self-sacrifice.

She was there for us even when we did not ask. Mom volunteered to come over for Sparky to read and sit with him when he had cancer and we were at work.

Mom showed us inner strength over adversity especially her last ten year battle with Parkinsons. Mom was not a complainer even though she could easily have been.

Mom openly showed affection and love to Dad growing up and expressed her love to her children often. That love will stay in my heart as I continue on without you Mom. I pray for eternal peace for you Mom and know that someday we can be together again.

Your loving daughter, Eileen

Eileen Scordy - February 21, 2022 at 09:58 AM

LS

“ *My name is Lou Schechter, I am glad to say I have been Janet’s husband for the last 61 years & truly wish it had been longer as far as I am concerned. She has been my only wife and truly my only love of my life for the past 61 years besides my two children Brian & Eileen who I cherish as well and have been so helpful in getting me through the loss of Janet.*

As for my memories of Janet I could write a whole book on just that alone and would just love to and it would be most enjoyable but also very emotional for me to do as I have found out since the very day I have lost her. I will always cherish the fond memories we had together in my heart till the day the Lord in heaven takes me to join my beloved Janet once again and believe me that will be my resurrection and I will also thank the Lord personally for helping me find Janet and having her as my loving mate for the last 61 years. He couldn’t of given me a better gift! So with all this said, I hope I have left anyone reading this that Janet has given me the most fondest and most loving memories any husband could ask for & I am so thankful to her for this. I end this message by showing you the following poem I had put on the back of her Urn which expresses my love for my blue eyed “Janet”.

*“ IF BUTTERFLIES COULD FLY TO HEAVEN
THEY WOULD BRING MY LOVE TO YOU
AND YOURS RIGHT BACK TO ME”
LOVE ALWAYS
LOU*

LOUIS SCHECHTER - February 20, 2022 at 12:11 PM

Memories of Mom:

Who was Janet Schechter? My Dad would say Wife. My kids would say Nana. For me, the answer is Mom. All simple one-word answers that encompass so much more.

I don't remember being born or learning to walk as I was too young. I do remember the loving stories mom told me about that time. Going full speed until eventually falling asleep. "On or off like a light switch but never in-between" she would say. She didn't complain about me being a handful (even though I know I was). She smiled as she talked, and I knew I was appreciated and loved. This is the way Mom made me feel my entire life.

I do remember Mom taking Eileen and I to Candlewood Lake every day in the summer. She encouraged us to learn to swim while never letting on that she was not a swimmer herself. Mom was always there waiting to wrap me in a towel after I emerged from the cold water in the brisk Connecticut morning air. She was there with a band-aid when I fell and scraped a knee. She was there when I had a bad day at school. She was always there when I needed her, and she always made me feel better. She made me the original "Smurf Cake" even though it did not have its official name yet. I appreciate Cathy and the kids making it for me these days and will always remember Mom when I eat it.

As we got older and moved to Virginia, Mom continued to go hiking and bike riding with us on weekends and vacations. If she was not up for going the full distance on a particular day, she encouraged us to continue while she read a book on a park bench. Mom was always patient and selflessly looking out for our interests.

When Cathy and I got married and had children of our own, Mom became Nana. She loved her grandkids and along with Papa showered them with love. Despite Cathy and I asking for less stuff as our house only had so much room, Nana (and Papa) brought over alligator see-saws, animal chairs, and many other toys and outfits. We couldn't get mad when we saw the smiles on Nana's face as the kids enjoyed their new treasures. You couldn't put a limit on Nana's love.

After Mom retired, she made friends in the neighborhood. Following in the Schechter tradition, they had fun playing games together like Bunco. In addition, Mom took up line dancing and formed the "Happy Hoofers" with her new friends. They exercised together while having fun learning new routines. Mom continued her lifelong passion for helping people by performing with the group for those less fortunate at retirement homes.

In her later years, Parkinson's and other back issues limited mom's mobility. She used a walker and wheelchair to continue to see family as

best she could. While her declining health took a toll on her, she didn't complain and thought of others before herself. I am thankful for being able to share last Thanksgiving and Christmas together as a family with her as well as our time together this year. Mom continued playing card games like "Golf" right until the end still beating us more often than not. Being with family always put a smile on her face.

I love you mom. You will always be with me in my heart!!!

*Your Loving Son,
Brian*

Brian Schechter - February 21, 2022 at 04:55 PM