



Janna Smith Pitlyk

October 7, 1948 - August 3, 2018

Albany - Janna Smith Pitlyk, 69, died in hospice at St. Peter's Hospital with her family around her on Friday, Aug. 3, 2018, after suddenly falling critically ill in July.

Janna leaves us with unforgettable memories of a life lived with a lovely smile, a gentle voice and a firm devotion to her loved ones. She introduced her husband to cats and antiques, her son to Star Trek and her daughter to figure skating. She gathered her family together for Sunday dinners and shared stories of her Pennsylvania family. Whenever she made a suggestion to her husband about looking for Christmas presents or making decisions about paint colors, she was always right. Whether setting play group times with neighborhood moms, volunteering for school activities or assisting with a move into a new apartment, she never tired of doing whatever she could for her two children.

Janna was born on Oct. 7, 1948, in Canton, Pa., to the late Olen and Lenore Smith. She grew up there and graduated from Canton High School. She earned a bachelor's degree in English and communications from Lock Haven State College in Lock Haven, Pa., and also studied at Columbia University in New York.

She lived in New York City and Chicago for several years before moving to

Elmira, N.Y., and worked in Elmira as a retail store manager. In 1981 Janna married her nextdoor neighbor Raymond Pitlyk, giving him the thrill of his life. They lived in Elmira until 1984, when her husband took a job at the Times Union. In Albany she worked at the Book House for a while and later became the long-time office manager for the Newspaper Guild of Albany-CWA Local 31034.

She is survived by her husband, Raymond; her son David of Waterford; her daughter Anne of Albany; a sister, Alaire Smith-Miller of Vermont; and a niece. She was predeceased by her beloved brother, Richard.

Calling hours will be 4- 7 p.m. Tuesday, August 7, at McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 North Allen St., Albany.

A prayer service will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, August 8, at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Food Pantries for the Capital District, 32 Essex St. Albany, N.Y. 12206.

To leave Janna's family a message on their guestbook, light a candle, obtain directions, or view other helpful services, please visit www.mcveighfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 7. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc.
208 N Allen St
Albany, NY 12206
(518) 489-0188
info@mcveighfuneralhome.com
<http://www.McveighFuneralHome.com>

Service

AUG 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc.
208 N Allen St
Albany, NY 12206
(518) 489-0188
info@mcveighfuneralhome.com
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Tribute Wall



“ *McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Janna Smith Pitlyk*



McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. - August 06, 2018 at 04:23 PM



“ *Janna Smith Pitlyk*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *My condolences to Ray and the Pitlyk family. Marvin Borgmeyer*

Marvin Borgmeyer - August 12, 2018 at 07:56 PM



“ *We were away and I just saw the notice that Janna had passed away. What a loss of a great lady. She was such a strong supporter of the Albany Youth Soccer program and worked tirelessly to make everything come together. I valued her contributions so much and relied on her calm demeanor and thoughtful proposals. I hope your memories will carry you through these difficult times and leave a smile on your faces when you think of all she was.*

Bonnie Premo - August 11, 2018 at 01:51 PM



“ *Ghirardelli & Fruit Condolences Gift Basket was purchased for the family of Janna Smith Pitlyk.*



August 09, 2018 at 08:06 PM

 Nora Ramirez

“ *So sorry to hear of Jana's passing. I have fond memories of my sister & her good friend Jana growing up in Canton. So wanted to be like them when I grew -up. My condolences to her beautiful family. She lives on in her children & in the memories of those she graced with her friendship! Nora Wheeler*

Nora Ramirez - August 09, 2018 at 07:09 PM

 **MCVEIGH**
FUNERAL HOME, INC.
(518) 489-0188

“ *50 files added to the album Life Tributes*



McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. - August 06, 2018 at 03:20 PM

AC

“ I never had the pleasure of meeting Jana, but we have had the good fortune to have her son David on our team here at New York State Parks. We are heartbroken for our friend and colleague at this difficult time. Sincere condolences to David and his family.

*Alane Chinian,
and all your friends at State Parks*

Alane Chinian - August 06, 2018 at 12:46 PM

CA

“ Our sincere sympathy to the Pitlyk family. Jana was a classmate at Canton and always had a smile for others. May your memories bring you comfort and peace during this very difficult time.

*Jim & Carol Fitch
Canton, PA*

Carol - August 06, 2018 at 11:22 AM

ME

Ray — Bill and I were shocked and saddened to hear about Janna's passing. Our deepest sympathies to you and your family during this time. Miriam Disman and Bill Eaget

Miriam Disman and Bill Eager - August 07, 2018 at 10:47 AM

MH

Janna and I graduated from Canton High School the same year. She was a gentle, sweet person who spoke kindly of everyone. I am so sorry for her family and their loss. When I saw her later on in life, her devotion to her beloved family was very evident. Mary O. Hamblin

Mary O. Hamblin - August 07, 2018 at 11:19 AM

MK

Our families both attended St. James Episcopal Church in Canton, and I have fond memories of Ricky & Janna Lynn...(Alaire came later!) Janna was a year older than me, in my brother Chuck's class. I'll never forget rides in her dad's XKE! So happy she had a wonderful family, and my condolences to the entire Pitlyk family. Margo Streeter Kotulak, Littleton, CO

Margo Kotulak - August 08, 2018 at 01:43 PM