

January 27, 2014

Dear Friends,

Some of you I have met--some not. I am Joyce's niece . . .and am writing to notify you of her passing on January 23. Please forgive me for not contacting you by telephone, but this seemed the best way to relay the news to a large number of people. It also allows me the chance to give you a few details regarding her last months and days.

As I am sure you are aware, Joyce had suffered with chronic pain for many years and her mobility had steadily decreased. She stoically insisted on remaining at home on her own. Fortunately, I also live in the Twin Cities and have been able to help her on a daily basis during the past three years. It was becoming increasingly clear to me that her need for assistance was escalating, so in October of 2013 my husband, Greg, and I moved in with her.

During the week of January 12 Joyce became ill with nausea which she attributed to the flu. She did not want to see her doctor. However, when she also began to experience shortness of breath, we had an ambulance take her to an emergency room . . . on Friday, January 17. They immediately admitted her for testing and she was diagnosed with congestive heart failure. She was hospitalized . . . until Thursday, January 23. Her doctors then believed she was well enough to be moved to a Transitional Care Unit with the hope that she could regain sufficient strength to eventually return home. She had been settled at the care center for less than nine hours when I received a phone call from their nursing staff telling me that she had died in her sleep at approximately 10:45 PM on Thursday, January 23. Joyce was 88 years of age.

Per Joyce's request . . . there are no plans for a memorial service at this time. If a memorial service is planned for a later date, I will notify you, in addition to publishing a notice in the Mpls. and St. Paul papers. . . .

I am sorry to relay this sad news to you, but I am also thankful the Joyce's suffering has ended. Thank you for being a part of her life, for your care and concern, cards, letters and phone calls through the years. . . .