



Joan Elizabeth Hildreth Adams

January 21, 2026

Joan Elizabeth Hildreth Adams, 89, of Landisville, PA, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at home, just as she wanted, with her daughter and cat by her side. Born in Bridgeton, NJ, she was the daughter of Kennard and Dorothy Hildreth.

Joan was a graduate of Bridgeton High School, where she was a proud member of the “Blue Beetle Gang,” some of her lifelong friends. She earned her dental hygiene degree from Temple University and later a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Charleston. Devoted single mom to Leslie and Nancy, Joan raised strong independent, well-educated women in Charleston, WV, while juggling many jobs, leading the girls’ 4-H Housemaster’s Club, participating in the First Presby choir and youth ministries, serving as the first dental hygienist on the WV Board of Dental Examiners (the position she personally lobbied Governor Rockefeller to create while cleaning his teeth), and attending every horse show, track meet, or event her girls were a part of.

After relocating to Lancaster, PA, in the 1990s, Joan treasured every minute she was able to spend being an amazing and enthusiastic Mommom to Rachael, Jamie, Francis, and Kasi. In the final year of her life, she cherished watching Jamie and Nick become amazing parents to her first great-grandchild, Nash, and having the opportunity to spend some everyday life

moments with the now local Rachael and Filup.

Joan was a lover of animals, great and small, beautiful floral arrangements, National Geographic, British television, art of any kind, and breaking expectations. She leaves behind a legacy of love and inspiration.

Joan is survived by her daughter, Nancy (Mark) Herman of Landisville, PA, her son-in-law, Cortland Eble of Lexington, KY; her grandchildren, Rachael Herman (fiancé Filup Molina), Jamie (Nick) VanRensselaer, Francis Eble, and Kasi Herman; her great-grandchild, Nash VanRensselaer; her sister-in-law, Brenda Hildreth of Fairton, NJ, her Hildreth and Jones family nieces and nephews, and several cousins. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her daughter, Leslie Eble of Lexington, KY, sister Floss (Sid) Jones of Stone Harbor, NJ, and brother Kennard Hildreth Jr. of Fairton, NJ.

The family extends sincere thanks to the staff of the Lancaster Cancer Center for their exceptional care of Joan for over 25 years.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to a local animal shelter, wildlife center, or the youth program of HUMC.

A Celebration of Joan's Life will be held at The Groffs Family Funeral Home, 528 W. Orange Street, Lancaster, PA, on Friday, February 27, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. The family will receive friends from 10:30 a.m. until the time of service.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 27. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc
528 W Orange St.
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 394-5300
admin@thegroffs.com
<https://thegroffs.com/>

Memorial Service

FEB 27. 11:30 AM (ET)

The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc
528 W Orange St.
Lancaster, PA 17603
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Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joan Elizabeth Hildreth Adams.

February 26 at 01:49 PM



“ Dear Nancy and all the family,
As you gather together to celebrate Joan's life, please know how very much we care and our hearts are with you. Keeping you in our prayers and thanking our LORD God for her beautiful life and legacy.

In honor of Joan Elizabeth Hildreth Adams, a donation has been made to the NJ Nature Conservancy. It seems fitting knowing her love of nature and our family roots in South Jersey.

*With all love and affection,
Tom and Cherie (Jeffers) Dreyer*

Cheryl Dreyer - February 25 at 08:25 PM



“ Mike, Barbie & Scott purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Joan Elizabeth Hildreth Adams.



Mike, Barbie & Scott - February 25 at 05:19 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joan Elizabeth Hildreth Adams.



February 25 at 02:51 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joan Elizabeth Hildreth Adams.

February 25 at 02:51 PM



“ Nancy, I am so sorry to hear of Joan's passing. You will miss her and so will I. What a fantastic lady. I am so glad to have known her and enjoyed her tremendously. She was so sweet and such a unique lady. Thinking of you and the rest of the family. She is in a better place now in heaven. She was loved and was a very special lady. She is now in heaven with our good Lord and that should make you smile, but I know you will miss her. I really enjoyed your Mom, she was special!! I'm sorry that she passed and is not with us no more but she will be missed not only by her family but by others, because she was a special lady and I will truly miss her. We had many conversations. Take care and Im thinking of you and the rest of the family....Karen Harrah Lehman

Karen Lehman - February 07 at 05:20 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Joan Elizabeth Hildreth Adams.*



February 04 at 01:38 PM



“ *Kathleen, Dottie & The Blue Beetle Gang planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joan Elizabeth Hildreth Adams.*

Kathleen, Dottie & The Blue Beetle Gang - February 04 at 01:38 PM