



Joan Stromenger Wicke

October 7, 2022

Joan Stromenger Wicke, 91, passed away peacefully on Friday, October 7, 2022, at The Glen at Willow Valley Communities in Lancaster, PA. Mrs. Wicke, formerly of Bethesda, MD and New Bern, NC, was a beloved wife, mother, aunt and grandmother. Mrs. Wicke was born in Orange, NJ and spent her childhood in Summit, NJ. She was the daughter of the late Richard Turner Stromenger and Helen Naomi Wethey Stromenger, and was predeceased by her husband, Ralph Stephens Wicke, who passed away in January 2019.

Mrs. Wicke graduated with a Registered Nursing degree from Columbia Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing in New York City. Mrs. Wicke's first marriage to Loye W. Miller, Jr. ended in divorce. Prior to her retirement, she was a Surgery Operating Room Nurse in Washington, D.C. Mrs. Wicke also owned and operated a store called The Craft Patch in Bethesda. Following both of their retirements, Mr. and Mrs. Wicke moved from Bethesda to New Bern where they built their dream home and were active in the local community. They loved the water and had a sailboat named "Partners." Many good times were spent sailing in the Chesapeake Bay area in coastal Maryland, in and around New Bern, and up and down the Intracoastal Waterway. Mr. and Mrs. Wicke also enjoyed cruises and traveled all over the Caribbean, Mexico, and Europe, and enjoyed visiting their children and grandchildren. Mrs. Wicke especially loved cats and their household was never without one or two. Mr. and Mrs. Wicke were longtime members of

Stephen Ministries through Garber United Methodist Church in New Bern and continued to serve with Stephen Ministries when they moved to Willow Valley Communities in Willow Street, PA.

While living at Willow Valley, Mrs. Wicke studied to become a National Flower Show Judge. She attended and judged many competitions while also earning numerous awards for her own flower designs. She became known at Willow Valley for her stunning flower arrangements. She and Mr. Wicke were also volunteers at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA.

Mrs. Wicke is survived by her brother, Phillip T. Stromenger (Peggy) of West Palm Beach, FL; children Lissa Wethey Miller Thompson (Larry) of Lake Oswego, OR and Loye W. Miller, III (Elizabeth) of Rehoboth Beach, DE; granddaughter, Kate Allison Thompson of Portland, OR; nieces, Kimberly Stromenger Turner (Camilla) and their twins of Nesoddtangen, Norway; Gretchen Miller (Dave Coie) of Austin, TX; Pamela Miller of Dallas, TX; Laurel Miller (Tom Catmull) of Missoula, MT and nephew, Bryan Miller of Leawood, KS.

Mr. and Mrs. Wicke were members of Lampeter United Methodist Church in Lampeter, PA. Arrangements were by Groff Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc., Lancaster. A memorial service for family and friends will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 23, 2022 at First Presbyterian Church, 400 New Street in New Bern, North Carolina.

In lieu of flowers, Mrs. Wicke's family requests donations be made to Stephen Ministries, 2045 Innerbelt Business Center Drive, St. Louis, MO 63114.

Tribute Wall



“ *Joan Stromenger Wicke*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *Our sincerest thanks to all at Groff Funeral Home and to M S Foltz for your comment and remembrance. We appreciate any negative remarks being removed and are saddened for those who have personal issues of their own. The Miller / Stromenger family loved Ralph Wicke and value him and his memory as part of our family history. Joan will be reunited with her late husband in New Bern NC and we will honor them both with full hearts.*



Loye Miller - October 17, 2022 at 09:25 AM

MF

“ Hello, Wicke Family: I am sending my sincere condolences in your time of bereavement of Joan,, whom I have only known since hey joined Lampeter United Methodist Church and started the Stephen Ministry. at this church. My late husband and I would visit them at the Glen and also just visited her prior to pandemic days. .They were perfect host/hostess and spoke highly of the family. . . . Apparently your mother never taught you that you should not speak ill of the dead. What S. Wicke wrote should not have been written. which most of us didn't need to know. Good thing for Christians, our God doesn't remember our sins when we pray and ask for forgiveness. "Jesus loves You,, and so do I."
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in His love, M S Foltz, coordinator of "I Can Help ministry at LUMC

M S Foltz - October 15, 2022 at 06:53 AM

LM

Thank you for you kind comment. Joan was my mother and a wonderful person.

Loye Miller - October 17, 2022 at 09:42 AM