

Jan's Eulogy

On behalf of my family, I would like to begin by thanking everyone that is here today and for those who have sent their condolences. We have received countless phone calls, e-mails, texts, flowers, meals, visits, and thoughts and prayers. They have been both comforting during this difficult time and have been a reminder of the impact that Jan had on so many others.

My name is Erin, I am Jan's niece and godchild. Jan did not have children of her own, so her nieces and nephew were her children. As you can imagine Jan was the coolest Aunt any child could have ever had. She always had sporty cars with manual transmissions, horses to ride, free concert tickets, a wicked spin on the ping pong table, and a drive for adventure. Jan was full of life, she was feisty, and she was downright fun. Most importantly, she had an eternal love for her family.

We weren't her only loved ones. Jan had a strong connection with the many animals she cared for over the years, especially her horses. Riding was a passion for Jan throughout her entire life. I can remember at a young age watching in awe as she would gallop across an open field bareback without a care in the world. Her horse and her pets were her family. Many people dress up for Halloween each year but few go as far as dressing up their weiner dog as a hot dog... ketchup, mustard, toasted bun, and all.

She became an exceptional runner who completed several marathons which led to her qualifying for the Boston Marathon twice. But just crossing the finish line wasn't enough for Jan, she chose to raise money for causes that honored those that had passed away before her. Often times, if she wasn't preparing for her next marathon or riding you would see her scuba diving, taking her family boating on the lake, or skiing.

Jan found so much pride in her accomplishments as a business woman in the radio industry. Her sense of humor, intelligence, and love of radio brought her a successful career and connected Jan to her radio family that she thought very highly of and spoke of often.

She was truly an exceptional woman that cared for others, at times to a fault. If someone she loved was hurting, by God so was she. Nonetheless, it was always a treat to get her to hang out with Aunt Jan. I will never forget her contagious laugh and lighthearted spirit. She taught me so much and I attribute the person I am today to Jan. Because of her I was brave enough to run two marathons, buy a manual transmission car without actually knowing how to drive it, get my scuba certification, gallop across a field bareback, and to eventually become a fun-loving aunt to my own niece and nephew.

I know that many of you may be angry that Jan was taken from us at such a young age. But I would like to ask you to give forgiveness and celebrate Jan's life with me. I challenge you to run a 5K or even a marathon in her honor. Get scuba certified or ski down the mountain and think of her. Ride a horse and "clean the cob webs out" as Jan would always say, because during these times was when Jan was her happiest. Find that piece of Jan within yourself and continue her adventurous fun-loving legacy in a way that will make you remember the person that we all knew and loved.

Until Jan's passing on Saturday, I never knew a day without her unconditional love. She was a role model, a caring and supportive aunt, and one of my greatest friends. I will truly miss her every day for the rest of my life. Let us all remember the way that she touched our lives.

I would like to leave you with a quote that I feel directly represents the way in which I choose to honor and remember the beautiful, funny, and creative woman who was such an integral part of my life and the lives of so many others:

"In one sense there is no death. The life of the soul on earth lasts beyond departure. You will always feel that that life touching yours. That voice speaking to you. She lives on in your life and in the lives of all that knew her."

Jan, I truly cherish every moment I was able to spend with you. I know that you are at peace now.

I love you Jan.