



## Janice Ellen Deaver Brandt

January 7, 2020

Janice met Richard on a street corner in Brooklyn after having been penpals while he was in combat service during the Korea War. It was love at first sight, although surely the letters planted the seeds that grew into a deep, respectful, and passionate romance story. The look of love in his eyes for Janice was so obvious everyday, and he knew how lucky he was to have her in his life.

We are all lucky to have had Janice Ellen Deaver Brandt in our lives and will miss her so terribly as she passed away peacefully on January 7, 2020, at the age of 86. Mother of four, grandmother of 7 and great grandmother of 2, she welcomed many friends to feel like her family as well.

Janice and Richard were married in 1954, very happily so until Rich's sudden and untimely death in 1989. She met his passing with grace and was a pillar of support for her family then and beyond.

Janice was born in Arkansas City, Kansas in 1933, the daughter of Fred and Lou Deaver. Mr. Deaver was a laboratory specialist for the Shell Oil Company. The family moved variously to Texas and Illinois before relocating to New York, where she met Rich. Rich and Janice arrived in Richmond in 1961.

She was an educator, teaching math and science in Goochland and Henrico public schools before arriving at Tuckahoe Middle School, where she taught for 16 years. She was an avid chess player and ran the school's chess club. Always curious to learn more, after retiring she went on to earn her PhD in education from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Janice was a talented and creative woman. An avid painter in both oil and watercolors, she also enjoyed pen and ink drawing. She crocheted afghans and scarves for family and friends, booties for babies and mini nests for orphaned animals. Writing a card for every occasion, friends and family would receive homemade versions. Janice was also a lover of music, and worked earnestly to learn it through her life. In her day, Janice enjoyed a challenging game of tennis, and was a former champion at the Three Chopt Recreation Club.

While living in Richmond, Janice was an active member at St. Bridget's Parish, where she volunteered in many service activities, including weddings, funerals, and Catholic

charities. Many of her extended friendships first started at St. Bridget's, and she cherished her involvement in the Parish community.

In the greater Richmond community, Janice assisted in many elections as a volunteer at polling places, her efforts directed primarily in enabling elderly Richmond residents to vote.

Due to health reasons, Janice moved to Knoxville in 2013, living with her family. She later moved to Arbor Terrace of Knoxville, immediately making friends, bringing joy and humor to the residents and staff.

Janice's survivors include her children Chris Brandt and his wife Darlene, Kurt Brandt and his wife Dawn Huff, Chad Brandt and his wife Kate, and her daughter Dorothea. Her pride, her grandchildren, are Kristen, Blair, Paul, Lee, Lane, Lindsay and Michael. And she adored her great-grandchildren Morgan and Hudson. She loved her sister Jane Maasen and her husband Walt and her nieces and nephew Holly Mueller, Erika and Russell Steponic.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Tennessee, 5801 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919, Mission of Hope, 6030 Industrial Heights Dr NW, Knoxville, TN 37909, and Catholic Charities USA at [www.catholiccharitiesusa.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org)

On Saturday, January 18th there will be a receiving of friends from 3:00 – 4:00 pm followed by a service at 4:00 pm to be held at Rose Mortuary, Knoxville, TN. Online condolences may be extended at [www.rosemortuary.com](http://www.rosemortuary.com)

# Events

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**JAN** **Receiving of Friends** 03:00PM - 04:00PM

**18**

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Rose Mortuary Mann Heritage Chapel  
6200 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN, US, 37919

**JAN** **Memorial Service** 04:00PM

**18**

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Rose Mortuary Mann Heritage Chapel  
6200 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN, US, 37919

# Comments

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“ On class trips at St. Bridget Elementary with her son Chris, I always thought she was a beautiful Mom. A great family!

**Bruce Slough** - January 20 at 10:26 AM

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“ Jan and I were walking buddies for a long time, and I've always treasured those times we shared. Although we lived very close in our neighborhood, we did not meet until both of us were taking education classes at VCU. I'm grateful for these fond memories of a very special friend. My thoughts and prayers are with her family. Betty Young (We lived at 1904 Parma Road in Henrico.)

**Betty Young** - January 18 at 02:31 PM

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“ The members of Henrico Retired School Personnel Association extend their condolences to the family of Janice Brandt. We also express our appreciation for her years of service to students and staff and for her membership in HRSPA.

**DHSuler, HRSPA Rep** - January 17 at 05:06 PM

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“ It was with great sadness upon hearing the loss of Jan. I met Jan as a member of the Richmond Toastmasters Club. She was one of the most radiant people I had ever met. Always with a smile, always with a kind and encouraging word. The world lost a glow with her passing.

At one of the club's meetings, I presented a talk on how to give a speech, including the use of visual aids. Afterward, Jan gave me high praise. Weeks later, I learned that her beloved husband Richard, actually wrote the book on visual aids. She also gave me a copy.

Although my contact with Jan was many years ago on those 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings at the Dumbarton Library, 'class' was always in session when she entered the building.

My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

-Paul Mellor

**Paul Mellor** - January 16 at 03:12 PM

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“ 66 files added to the album LifeTributes



Rose Mortuary - January 16 at 02:49 PM

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“ So sorry to hear of Janice's death. I recall her from the P-Club book group that we had briefly a few years ago. A very sweet lady. Sandy Campbell

Sandra J Campbell - January 14 at 01:30 PM

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“ Jan was one of my BeFriender Ministers here at St. Bridget in Richmond. The ministry was meant to bring comfort to folks who are going through a time of trial. Jan and I became fast friends as she had such a wonderful spirit about her. She was the best person I had in the ministry and my go to person for those difficult cases. I was crushed when I began noticing her memory issues and have been in mourning for her ever since she moved to Tennessee. My love and prayers to her family who cared for her enough to bring her to Tennessee. It is obvious she passed her love of others to you all.

Peace, Paul Amrhein

PAUL Amrhein - January 14 at 11:04 AM

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“ Mrs Brandt was bright, always happy and just plain fun to be around. My favorite memory was watching her make homemade blackberry wine. She picked the berries from the wild vines across the street from her house in Richmond. The bottles fermented for weeks on the kitchen counter until FINALLY she determined that it was ready. I was so excited to share a glass with her....."there's a hot summer day in every glass" she said as we tasted the results together.

My condolences to Dodi and the family. How fortunate you are to have had a mom like her. I still think of her whenever I see fresh blackberries.

Sincerely,  
Carl Wentzel

CARL WENTZEL - January 13 at 06:19 PM

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“ I had the pleasure of working with Jan as we both taught math at Tuckahoe Middle School in Richmond, VA. I will always remember what fun she was to be around...her cheery outlook, her wonderful sense of humor, and her kind manner. Thank you for a beautifully written obituary and it certainly highlighted her amazing life. My sympathies are with each member of her family...I know she will be missed.

**Betsy Hulcher** - January 12 at 07:49 PM

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“ Jan was a beautiful person and a good friend. Since her move, I have missed her presence in my life and am sorry that you, her family, will now miss it too. Gloria Miller

**gloria miller** - January 12 at 10:38 AM

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“ My condolences Kurt. Your Mom had such high class. Always carrying herself humbly and gracefully while interacting calmly and cordially with everyone. I could go on and on complimenting her gracious style of living. I am so thank full I got to know your Mom. She was a beautiful lady. Tom McGranahan Jr.

**Tom McGranahan, Jr** - January 12 at 08:23 AM



“ Thank you Tom! Hope you are well.

**Kurt Brandt** - January 14 at 09:26 AM

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“ Many wonderful memories of Mrs. Brandt & your family. Love & prayers, Marie McGranahan-Turner

**Marie** - January 11 at 08:59 PM

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“ One of my moms and dads best friend thoughts and prayers for and the Brandt family. Tim McGranahan

**Tim McGranahan** - January 11 at 08:27 PM

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“ I just read the obit for my dear friend Jan. I first met Jan at Three Chopt Recreation Club. She was a delightful lady to know. She was everything that was said in the article and more. I remember one year she went to work for Blackburn Mattress Factory making mattresses. She could do anything and do it well. I loved her. RIP dear friend, Jan Brandt. Beverly Fleming Lee

**beverly fleming lee** - January 11 at 03:30 PM

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“ Mrs. Brandt was my seventh grade math teacher. She was fabulous. She had a radiant smile and gave all the children her equal attention and respect. I will never forget her. She taught us about the stock market and how to draw exact copies using a grid. I was in her class when her husband died and my mom took me to visit her in her home, which we happily discovered was in our neighborhood. She wrote us such a sweet, kind note after our visit. I admired her greatly! My sincere condolences to you all. She was a gift.

**Jen Tsimpris** - January 11 at 11:23 AM

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“ I remember Jan from St. Bridget Church. Indeed she was a beautiful woman! Prayers are with you and your family as you celebrate her life. Lucy Casey

**Lucy Casey** - January 11 at 06:53 AM

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“ Kurt, Dawn and Family, I am so sorry to read of the passing of your mother. She was a beautiful woman and obviously a very interesting woman. Your family will be in my prayers.

Tessa Gentry

**Tessa Gentry** - January 10 at 08:55 AM