



## Janet Lynn Dunbar

April 9, 1959 - January 23, 2025

Janet Lynn Dunbar passed away peacefully in her home in Waynesville, Missouri, surrounded by family on Thursday, January 23, 2025 at the age of 65 after a courageous battle with Glioblastoma. Janet was born on April 9, 1959 in Little Rock, Arkansas. She grew up on a rice and bean farm in Holly Grove, AR. Janet has fond memories of her early childhood living on the farm close to all her family and spending time with her siblings, Stephen and Melinda, and numerous cousins. She met her high school sweetheart and future husband, Mike Dunbar, at the age of 15, in a roller-skating rink. She attended high school at Marvell Academy where she won the Junior Miss Central Arkansas and was selected as Homecoming Queen. Janet attended the University of Central Arkansas where she was a member of the Delta Zeta Sorority and voted the most beautiful Greek on campus. Shortly after college, Janet and Mike were married on May 25, 1980. Janet selflessly worked numerous jobs to pay for Mike's law school including: Executive Assistant to a major fishing rod/tackle company, executive assistant to a large manufacturing corporation, station manager at a radio station, among others.

After completing law school Janet and Mike moved to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri where their son Chris was born. Janet was the most incredibly devoted mother and would do absolutely anything for Chris who was her pride and joy. Chris had many medical problems as a child and we have no doubt that he is alive today because of her unwavering love, devotion, and care.

After Mike ended his military service, the Dunbars made Waynesville-St. Robert their permanent home. Janet and Mike have always talked about how fortunate they are to be part of such a wonderful community. Janet received the Fort Leonard Wood spouse appreciation award for assisting families and service members, was a proud member of the Waynesville Park Board for many years, performed in several plays with the Pulaski County Fine Arts Association, and was long time member of the choir at Waynesville United Methodist Church. She loved being a part of her book club. Janet opened a small gift store on the second floor of First State Bank. Her business blossomed and she opened her own home décor and gift shop Designs from Nature in Waynesville, or as her friends liked to call it: "Janet's". Janet had an incredible talent for decorating. Her vision and attention to detail were truly remarkable. Many homes in the Waynesville-St. Robert area still have one of Janet's beautiful arrangements, a loving reminder of the impact Janet had on so many lives.

Janet embodied the definition of compassion and empathy. Her kind-hearted nature and sweet smile could light up a room. Her soul was pure and her genuine love for God, family, and friends was undeniable. She was a devoted wife, loving mother, fun grandmother, protective big sister, faithful daughter, loyal friend, dedicated business owner, talented decorator, devout Christian, and so much more. Janet never forgot a face or a name. She would call everyone by their first name and would always ask about them or their family. One of Janet's greatest joys was being a grandmother. She was known to her adoring grandchildren Mason, Sophie, and Logan, as "Poppy." Poppy quickly became the endearing name that most everyone calls her today. The love Poppy had for her grandkids was truly special. Sophie and Poppy have so many similar characteristics, from her smile to her spunky attitude, but one thing Sophie will carry with her forever is Janet's middle name, Lynn.

Janet's fight with Glioblastoma was one of courage, strength, determination,

and faith. Even as a patient Janet had a profound impact on complete strangers. She was honored by the University of Missouri School of Medicine by receiving the Legacy Teacher Award. This award was created to recognize patients who had a lasting impact on physicians in training. Janet was the first awardee in history to be nominated by two unrelated medical students. They wrote: "I was struck at how someone who has gone through so much can remain so positive; how someone who has had so much taken from them can still give so much kindness and enthusiasm... I will never forget her kindness, resilience, and willpower."

Towards the end of her life Janet displayed an incredible amount of bravery. She would often say how much she loved her family and friends, how proud she was of her family, and that she had a beautiful life...a perfect life. She said that she was at peace with what she was facing and that "I am ready to go if God is ready to take me. There is no need to be scared or sad, God will protect you when I am gone." She always wanted everyone to "Feel the prayers, the love, the peace, and the light." We want to thank all the wonderful people who have supported our family through prayer, friendship, acts of kindness, meals, cards, messages, phone calls, visits, and gifts. You have given Janet the immeasurable gift of knowing how much she was loved.

Janet is preceded in death by her father Donald Miller; father-in-law Raymond Dunbar; grandparents Howard and Roberta Gibbs and Marvin and Virginia Faye Miller; and uncles David Gibbs and Roy Cooper.

Janet is survived by her husband, Michael Dunbar, Waynesville, MO; son Christopher Dunbar and wife Brooke, of Evans, GA; grandchildren Mason, Sophie, and Logan Dunbar of Evans, GA ; mother Shirley Miller of Kilgore, TX, siblings Stephen Miller and wife Beverly of Valencia, CA and Melinda Coop and husband Timothy of Gladewater, TX; mother-in-law Barbara Dunbar

of Texarkana, TX ; brothers and sisters in law Doug and Sharon Dunbar of Manassas, VA and Butch and Martha Dunbar of Texarkana, TX; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Celebration of Life services were held at 12:00 p.m. Saturday, January 25, 2025 in the Waypoint Church of Waynesville with Pastor Brett Reith officiating. Janet's brother-in-law, Timothy Coop read the obituary and gave a beautiful eulogy of Janet's life. Janet's sister: Melinda Coop, her brother: Stephen Miller, along with her son: Chris and husband: Mike, recalled their wonderful memories of Janet. The recorded songs "The Prayer" by Andrea Bocelli and Celine Dion, and "Goodness of God" by CeCe Winans were played. Soloist Becky Lercher sang "Celebrate Me Home" and a recording of Janet singing "Traces of Heaven" was played to conclude the service. Pianist David Lawson played the prelude and postlude. Serving as escorts were Rick Vernon, Keith Pritchard, Roberto Dacamara, Colin Long, Bob Bishop, Rob Wilson, Ed Fisher, Keith Dupont, Steve Young, and Kevin Pritchard. Honorary escorts were the late Richard McKinnon and the late Beth Deering, along with Janet's book club: Barb Pritchard, Cheryl Vernon, Kristie McKinnon, Tami LaMar, Jinnie Alexander, Cindy Grizzell, Judy Fisher, Becky O'Riley, Susie Shultz, Clarissa Guffey, and Connie Trower. Burial followed in the Sunset Memorial Estates Cemetery of Waynesville. Services were under the care and direction of Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Janet Dunbar to the Salvation Army, Waynesville R-VI School Foundation, or the Chamber of Commerce and may be left at Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert or at Waypoint Church the day of the service.

# Cemetery Details

## Sunset Memorial Estates Cemetery

Highway 17 South  
Waynesville, MO 65583  
(573) 774-6111  
memorialchapels@embarqmail.com

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 25. 9:00 AM.

Waypoint Church Of Waynesville

## Funeral Service

JAN 25. 12:00 PM.

Waypoint Church Of Waynesville

# Tribute Wall



“ *Memorial Chapels and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Janet Lynn Dunbar*



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**Memorial Chapels and Crematory** - February 01, 2025 at 12:58 PM

JJ

“ *I grew up in Holly Grove and in the country around Janet, Stephen and their family. Janet was a class act from childhood forward. I'm sure in the years since I've seen her that she's been a bright light and blessing to those who know and love her. I'm truly sorry she left us so early in life. She had the best laugh. Julian Johnson*

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**Julian Johnson** - January 27, 2025 at 01:35 PM

PB

“ *Janet was a childhood friend and we grew up together, so many fond memories of her and her family & also Mike and his family. Mike's dad was our school Superintendent and we all grew up as one big happy family & friends in a small Town of Holly Grove, Arkansas in a farming community. Janet was so beautiful inside and outside & a wonderful voice and the biggest heart! I'll always remember Mike being her sweetheart from Jr High School & knew it would be one that lasted! To Janet & Mikes family, our prayers are with you during this very difficult time & love to you all. From the Family of Frank Miller, Pam Miller Brown, Jennifer Miller Methvin & the late Van Miller 🙏*

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**Pam Miller Spurlock Brown** - January 26, 2025 at 03:42 PM

EV

“ *Our deepest condolences to your family. Janet was a beacon of light and a beautiful person inside and out.*

**Erika Vargas** - January 25, 2025 at 05:34 PM

SS

“ *Shery Storey lit a candle in memory of Janet Dunbar*



**Shery Storey** - January 25, 2025 at 04:59 PM

SR

“ *Sandy Rickert lit a candle in memory of Janet Dunbar*



**Sandy Rickert** - January 25, 2025 at 10:36 AM

GC

“ *Grant&Linda Cox lit a candle in memory of Janet Dunbar*



**Grant&Linda Cox** - January 25, 2025 at 09:03 AM

MH

“ Mike and Trisha Helmer sent a virtual gift in memory of Janet Dunbar



Mike and Trisha Helmer - January 25, 2025 at 03:45 AM

LC

“ Linda cole-schonbok sent a virtual gift in memory of Janet Dunbar



Linda cole-schonbok - January 24, 2025 at 11:25 PM

JT

“ Janet was a beautiful and caring woman and anyone that was blessed to know her felt blessed.



Janis Thompson - January 24, 2025 at 06:53 PM

SH

“ Stan & Betty Harris lit a candle in memory of Janet Dunbar



Stan & Betty Harris - January 24, 2025 at 06:44 PM

TC

“ *Tammy Corse lit a candle in memory of Janet Dunbar*



Tammy Corse - January 24, 2025 at 04:32 PM

BT

“ *Our deepest condolences. Jim and Barb Thomas*



Barbara Thomas - January 24, 2025 at 03:27 PM

MS

“ *So sorry for your loss. Sending prayers your way for comfort and peace during the trying days ahead. May our Lord Jesus Christ keep you safe and take care of your family. GOD BLESS*



Marge Scott - January 24, 2025 at 03:00 PM



“ *1 file added to the album LifeTributes*



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - January 24, 2025 at 02:28 PM



“ 118 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Memorial Chapels and Crematory** - January 24, 2025 at 11:43 AM

CC

*Mike and Family I am so sorry for your loss sending prayers and love*

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**Craig Chavez** - January 24, 2025 at 08:09 PM



*Janet was a wonderful person, and we are celebrating her life as we pray for your family and mourn her loss. May the Lord bless you with an abundance of mercy, strength and peace as you go through this difficult time.*

*David and Victoria Lowe*

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January 27, 2025 at 08:39 AM

CG

“ *So many wonderful memories of our beautiful friend. She added so much love and light to the people who knew her. I am better for having her in my life.* □

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**Cynthia Grizzell** - January 24, 2025 at 10:22 AM

LW

“ Janet's kind spirit and warming smile left a mark on my life. I am so grateful to have known her.



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**Leanna Weathers** - January 24, 2025 at 10:21 AM

BL

“ Ben Lord lit a candle in memory of Janet Dunbar



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**Ben Lord** - January 24, 2025 at 09:50 AM

SA

“ Susan Anderson lit a candle in memory of Janet Dunbar



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**Susan Anderson** - January 24, 2025 at 09:12 AM

CB

“ Mike, my deepest condolences to you and your family at the passing of Janet. All of you are in my prayers.

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**Charles G. Baxter** - January 24, 2025 at 07:35 AM

AH

“ Angie Hance lit a candle in memory of Janet Dunbar



Angie Hance - January 24, 2025 at 01:12 AM

FC

“ Janet always will be remembered for her ready smile and kind words, no matter how long it had been since we last met. She will live on through the impact she had on so many others.



Faye Crow - January 24, 2025 at 12:32 AM

LM

“ I first met Janet at Designs From Nature. I will never forget her coming to the front of her store to greet me with her bright and contagious smile. She had a way of making me feel at home when I was actually far away from family. Her store was filled with beautiful things but she was the brightest star. Each time I returned, I found myself doing less shopping and more talking. So, the summer after my first year of teaching, I worked with Janet at Designs From Nature. BEST summer job EVER because I was able to spend more time with someone that I admired for her grace, and that I will always consider to be a true LADY. Every day that summer always ended with a warm hug. I feel honored to have known such an amazing individual, a true angel on Earth. Janet will always hold a special place in my heart. Sending my love and support to the Dunbar Family and to Janet, a warm and everlasting hug.

Lisa Misenheimer - January 23, 2025 at 11:14 PM

MS

“ *Michael & Hollie Shaughnessy lit a candle in memory of Janet Dunbar*



Michael & Hollie Shaughnessy - January 23, 2025 at 10:28 PM

CD

“ *Cornelia & Robert Dodds lit a candle in memory of Janet Dunbar*



Cornelia & Robert Dodds - January 23, 2025 at 10:10 PM

DC

“ *David Campbell lit a candle in memory of Janet Dunbar*



David Campbell - January 23, 2025 at 08:25 PM

SD

“ *Sheila Debo lit a candle in memory of Janet Dunbar*



Sheila Debo - January 23, 2025 at 08:01 PM

MH

“ When Janet had the store in Waynesville I used to love to stop by and see what new wonderful things she and her Mother, Miss Shirley had to sell, they were the perfect go-to spot for that gift for someone with everything. Janet always had a great attitude and a wonderful smile. She was a friend for life. See you on the other side my friend. Love you forever!



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**Mary Haas** - January 23, 2025 at 07:44 PM

BH

“ Barb Surmiller- Hoskins lit a candle in memory of Janet Dunbar



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**Barb Surmiller- Hoskins** - January 23, 2025 at 07:22 PM

TH

“ Tammy Howlett lit a candle in memory of Janet Dunbar



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**Tammy Howlett** - January 23, 2025 at 05:42 PM

MT

“ *Maxine Thompson lit a candle in memory of Janet Dunbar*



Maxine Thompson - January 23, 2025 at 03:27 PM

PS

“ *Mike and family, I'm so sorry to hear about Janet's passing!! She was one of the most beautiful friends I have, both inside and out!. Always a gorgeous smile on her beautiful face! It absolutely broke my heart when I found out that she had glioblastoma! That's what Joe was diagnosed with , but he only got 3 extra months even after doing the recommended chemo and radiation! They were both 65 and way too young and vivacious to leave us! You were a fantastic care giver, Mike, and you will never regret all that you did for Janet! I've been praying for you both daily since her diagnosis and will continue to keep you in my prayers, as well as your son and his sweet family! I'm sure she and Joe are up in heaven decorating everything with beautiful flowers! They both were such talented floral designers!! Hang in there, Mike!! Pat Schaffitzel*

Pat Schaffitzel - January 23, 2025 at 03:06 PM

SW

“ *Janet was a beautiful soul-her smile lit up the room! She was kind and sweet and an inspiration to us all. Sending love and prayers for all the family. 🙏🙏🙏*

Suzanne Wauthier - January 23, 2025 at 03:02 PM

EA

“ *Earl & Michelle Arnold lit a candle in memory of Janet Dunbar*



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**Earl & Michelle Arnold** - January 23, 2025 at 02:38 PM

WA

“ *William anderson lit a candle in memory of Janet Dunbar*



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**William anderson** - January 23, 2025 at 02:32 PM

MA

“ *Martel lit a candle in memory of Janet Dunbar*



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**Martel** - January 23, 2025 at 01:05 PM

PC

“ *Pamela Cox sent a virtual gift in memory of Janet Dunbar*



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**Pamela Cox** - January 23, 2025 at 01:03 PM

MZ

“ *Rest in Peace our sweet friend.*



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**Monica Zarcone** - January 23, 2025 at 01:00 PM

LG

“ *Beautiful lady who absolutely treasured her grandchildren.*

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**Linda C Gifford** - January 23, 2025 at 12:22 PM

BB

“ *Such a truly amazing and loving woman. She will be missed by many. Love and prayers for you and the family Mike.*

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**Brian and Tammie Black** - January 23, 2025 at 12:22 PM

DS

“ *Mike, Chris and family,*

*We are devastated to hear of Janet's passing. Even though we moved from Missouri to Vermont 24 years ago, I can still remember her oh so sweet presence when our kids played ball and attended school together. You all have our heartfelt condolences. Sending love, Deb & Bill Savoie and Brett & Cody Basford.*

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**Deb (Taylor) Savoie** - January 23, 2025 at 12:09 PM