



## Sylvia Jeffris

June 13, 1942 - March 13, 2025

### Jean Jeffris: A Life of Love, Laughter, and Celestial Wonder

Sylvia Jean Jeffris, daughter of Sylvia and Charles Jechort, began her earthly journey in Berwyn, where her warm spirit and independent nature were nurtured by her devoted parents and maternal grandmother. After graduating from Morton East, she eagerly joined the Illinois Bell Telephone company—a position she often recalled with fondness throughout her life.

Jean's greatest joy arrived when she married the love of her life, Robert Jeffris. Together, they created a warm and welcoming home in Chicago where they raised their three daughters. Though Robert preceded her in death by 25 years, their profound connection remained the cornerstone of Jean's life, and she found comfort in her unwavering belief that they would one day be reunited.

A dedicated mother, Jean approached parenthood with equal measures of love and pragmatism. She volunteered countless hours with the PTA, contributed to bake sales and craft fairs, and was always ready with butterfly kisses to soothe a child's tears. Her daughters fondly remember her playful "finger dances" and her ever-present "smock" with its magical pockets containing life's little necessities: toothpicks, Double Mint gum, Tic Tacs, "nubbins" (her term for short pencils), Kleenex, and various useful treasures

that somehow always came in handy at just the right moment.

Jean instilled in her children the values that defined her own life: independence, capability, and personal responsibility. "If you make a mistake, you fix it," she would say, never one to play the victim or waste time on complaints. She lived by this philosophy to her final days, facing health challenges with remarkable grace and gratitude rather than grievance.

Her passion for exploration took many forms. Family road trips to Florida would find Jean combing beaches for hours in search of sharks' teeth—a collection she proudly displayed and discussed with enthusiastic detail. Visits to Boston satisfied both her appreciation for history and her unabashed love of "huge, juicy lobsters." In her later years, Jean embraced worldwide travel, visiting Mexico, Hawaii, Tahiti, Norway, Australia, and New Zealand. Perhaps most meaningful was her journey to Czechoslovakia, her maternal grandmother's birthplace, where she connected deeply with her family roots.

Jean's enthusiasm for celestial wonders was legendary. She would set alarms for middle-of-the-night backyard viewings of passing satellites, eagerly anticipated meteor showers, and celebrated rare glimpses of the Northern Lights. Her loved ones find peace knowing that on the night she departed, with her three daughters by her side, the stars aligned to reveal a Total Lunar Eclipse—a "Blood Moon" lighting her path to the heavens above.

Those who knew Jean will remember her steadfast character—never one to gossip or speak ill of others behind their backs, firmly grounded in her beliefs yet never judgmental. They'll recall her as the devoted daughter who lovingly cared for her mother and father in their later years, a devoted wife who cared for her husband and mother-in-law in their later years, and a devoted companion who cared for her dear friend Judy in her last months. She was an enthusiastic fishing companion who shared this passion with her daughters

and grandchildren - and to her credit they can all bait their own hooks. She was a culinary enthusiast who never met a restaurant menu she didn't like. Her detailed food reports—whether texting her children about a particularly successful dinner preparation or alerting them to a good sale at Jewel—were delivered with the same enthusiasm as her astronomical observations.

In a world where complaints often outweigh gratitude, Jean chose laughter—especially at her own mishaps—and maintained a positive outlook that brightened the lives of all who knew her. Though she expressed occasional disappointment at not matching her beloved father's longevity, she faced life's final chapter with characteristic grace, smiling through challenges and expressing thankfulness for both her journey and those who shared it with her. We will miss those dimples.

Jean's spirit continues to shine as brightly as the stars she so loved to observe, illuminating the hearts of all who were blessed to know her.

Jean is survived by her three loving daughters, Janice (Mo Wagdy) of Highland Park IL; Diana (Michael Robinson) of Richmond IL and Lora Kellie (Craig Ritter) of Lake Bluff IL; step daughter Ann Jeffris (Pat Callahan) of Framingham MA; 8 grandchildren (Sara, Everett, Grace, Alaina, Abbey, Ryan, Owen and Mae); 3 great grandchildren (Max, Kaz and Symmene); younger sister Sandra (Jerry Cervak) of Brookfield IL and beloved family Robert Kellie.

She was preceded in death by her dear husband, Robert Jeffris; her parents, Sylvia and Charles Jechort; her mother-in-law Marion Jeffris; and her Grandmother Ludmilla Starek.

In accordance with Jean's wishes, cremation has taken place. The family will hold a private memorial gathering to celebrate her life at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages you to make a donation in Jean's memory to support someone in your own life who is battling cancer. Whether it's a friend, family member, or community member facing this difficult journey, your contribution would honor Jean's caring spirit and extend her legacy of kindness to those who need it most.

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-318-1305 or [www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com](http://www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com).

# Tribute Wall

LK

“ *Missing you every day Momma* ”



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**Lora Kellie** - April 13, 2025 at 12:01 AM