



## Joan F. Root

June 28, 1939 - April 18, 2026

Joan Root, 86, of Montrose, Pennsylvania, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on the evening of April 18, 2026. Born in Vestal, New York on June 28, 1939, she was the daughter of the late Seeley and Eva (Wilmot) Walker.

Joan was a woman of deep and abiding faith. She was a faithful member of South New Milford Baptist Church for 47 years, where she served the Lord and her church family in many capacities. She dedicated her time as an Awana leader, deaconess, served on the Sunshine Committee, prepared and served countless meals, while working faithfully in the church kitchen. She worked 20+ years at Mountain View School cafeteria. Her life was a quiet testimony of love, service, and devotion. She found joy in the simple and beautiful things in life—tending to her flower gardens, working on puzzles, and spending time reading. Above all, Joan cherished her family and poured her love into each generation.

She is survived by her loving husband, Roger Root; her seven children, Vicky Varady of Whiteville, NC, Jeff (Linda) O'Dell of New Milford, PA, Bill (Pat) O'Dell of New Milford, PA, Lisa (Ray) Mitchell of Kingsley, PA, Don (Deb) O'Dell of New Milford, PA, Scott (Julie) O'Dell of New Milford, PA, and Andy (Angela) O'Dell of Peoria, AZ; two sisters, Phyllis (Glenn) Gregory of Montrose, PA and Debi Ford of Nicholson, PA; 26 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild; as well as many beloved

nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Bruce O'Dell; her daughter, Sandra O'Dell; one sister, Virginia Briggs; and two brothers, George Walker and Richard Walker; and a son-in-law Ted Varady.

In her final days, the Lord graciously gave Joan the gift of time surrounded by those she loved most. All seven of her children were able to be by her side, along with several grandchildren, sharing meaningful moments, conversations, and love. Those precious days were a reflection of the strong family she built and the legacy of faith she leaves behind.

In keeping with her wishes, there will be no public service. A private family celebration of life will be held at later date. Memorial contributions may be made to WPEL radio, PO Box 248 Montrose, PA 18801. Joan's life was a blessing to all who knew her. Though she will be deeply missed, her family rejoices in the promise that she is now at peace in the presence of her Savior.

# Tribute Wall

KG

“ Just really enjoyed her quiet spirit in our Sunday School Class and her smile. She will be greatly missed.

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**Karen Grubb** - April 29 at 06:24 AM

DF

“ I remember praying with Joan one evening, and zi was blessed by her sweetness and humility. I will miss her sweet smile at church.

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**Deb Frey** - April 20 at 05:51 PM

“ Some of the best memories from my childhood are wrapped up at Grandma’s old house in Harford, Pennsylvania.

*Walking into the house and immediately hearing WPEL on the radio...a sound that still brings me back. I remember loving to play with the old rotary phone. I loved spending Christmas Eve with what felt like hundreds of people but it was really just Aunts, uncles, and cousins.*

*I loved sitting on the back porch in the summer on the porch swing listening to Mom and Grandma and others talk and catch up on small town news.*

*I loved walking in the garden with her and my mom... listening as they chatted.*

*I remember being in elementary school and being so excited to go to lunch because Grandma worked in the cafeteria. She would always acknowledge me, and I always felt so special and loved.*

*Every summer, you could find her in the vegetable hall at the Harford Fair and probably with a ribbon for some of her delicious homemade goodies.*

*When she re-married, I had the honor of singing at the wedding...a memory I both love and cringe over because I messed up. Grandma and Roger always said that’s what made it more special.*

*Fast forward several years. On my wedding day, we had a really special conversation. I will treasure that memory forever.*

*Not every grandmother is good. I was blessed to have a great one. She loved Jesus deeply and I know she’s standing in God’s glorious and perfect presence...made completely whole in mind and body.*

*Some lyrics I was thinking of today that make me think of her life*

*and what she would say:*

*From the song My Tribute by Natalie Grant*

*How can I say thanks  
For all the things You've done for me?  
Things so undeserved  
Yet You gave to prove Your love to me  
The voices of a million angels  
Could not express my gratitude  
All that I am  
And ever hope to be  
I owe it all to Thee  
To God...  
Be the glory  
To God...  
Be the glory  
To God...  
Be the glory  
For the things He has done*

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**Felicia Denis** - April 20 at 11:32 AM

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To God...  
Be the glory  
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Be the glory  
To God...  
Be the glory  
For the things He has done*



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**Felicia Denis** - April 20 at 11:31 AM