



Johna Jean Schauer Hastings

June 20, 1937 - November 26, 2020

JOHNA JEAN SCHAUER HASTINGS 6-20-1937 to 11-26-2020

On Thursday, November 26, 2020, Johna Jean Hastings, loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother passed away at the age of 83.

Johna was born in Parma, Ohio, on Father's Day, June 20, 1937, and was named after her father John. She grew up in Parma, a suburb of Cleveland, where her father was a doctor and her mother was a kindergarten and music teacher. She graduated from Parma High School and spent many summers at a camp in the mountains of Pennsylvania. She loved nature, shooting sports and archery, and made many friends, eventually becoming a camp counselor. After high school she completed her bachelor's degree at the College of William & Mary in 1959. Johna was an excellent student, participating in many activities while in college, including playing cello in the orchestra, serving as an active member of Gamma Phi Beta Sorority, and finding a new love in theatre.

Her adult life began in Colonial Williamsburg as she married the love of her life, Russell T. Hastings, after graduation. Russell was a Theatre Professor at the College, and their life centered around the department's stage productions. She also contributed to the College's outdoor drama, *The Common Glory*, and worked with set building, painting scenery, and costume design. She felt at home in historic Colonial Williamsburg. Johna and

Russell enjoyed their life. Their family life thrived as all three daughters, Elizabeth, Catherine, and Vanessa were born in Williamsburg. The family moved to Columbus, Ohio, for Russell's position at The Ohio State University, Department of Theatre in 1968, and then settled in Worthington, Ohio in 1970.

Johna was dedicated to her family and an active participant in her community. She was a member of the Worthington Hills Civic Association, a Brownie and Girl Scout Leader, and a devoted Buckeye Fan. She cherished the new friends she made as a young mother. When her children were old enough, she found a career she loved as an amazing elementary school secretary for the Worthington School district, where her career spanned 28 years. Johna was involved in school board meetings, promoted and led workshops, and was a liaison for all the secretaries in the school district. She was devoted to her career, working to make sure the Worthington Elementary schools were top notch. One of the principals she worked with shared, "Johna is fondly remembered as a person who lovingly supported all, and made a difference for so many staff, students, and families." Johna worked at Evening Street Elementary from 1975-1988 and helped open Park Elementary in 1988. She remained at Park Elementary until she retired in 2003.

In addition to her career, Johna enjoyed supporting her daughters' many activities, including volunteering as a board member for arts programs and supporting their Worthington High School sports, such as soccer and lacrosse.

Johna was very creative. She made and sold gifts such as special Christmas ornaments or hand-sewn potholders at local stores in Williamsburg. Johna enjoyed needlepoint and embroidery, stitching many beautiful samplers. She was renowned for her creative and beautiful Ukrainian eggs that she so precisely made by hand. She carefully chose each egg, whether from chicken, duck, turkey, or rhea, and favored using brown, white or blue colored ones. The process she used included poking only 1 hole in the egg, blowing out the

contents, hand drawing the intricate designs on the shell by pencil, using a sequence of covering the pattern with wax, and hand dipping the egg in different colors of dye, and finishing with varnish. This ultimately created the most stunning eggs. She loved the traditional Ukrainian designs as well as creating her own. Johna was a member of the Ohio Designer Craft Guild, and one of her juried eggs was chosen to be a Christmas Ornament on the White House tree in 1993. Her egg designs were simple, yet spectacular. They were given as gifts or sold at craft shows. She truly put a small piece of her heart into each one she made. The family asks if you have one to treasure it, as each precious egg Johna made was one of a kind.

Her hands were always busy. Another passion was crocheting and donating hundreds of baby blankets for crisis pregnancy foundations. These were given as gifts to the mothers at baby showers in the Columbus area. She crocheted larger special blankets for her children and grandchildren. She would often say that each stitch was “a hug from Grandma.”

Johna had a big heart for her family and friends, her pets, local wildlife, and nature. She thoroughly enjoyed little things such as seeing deer in her yard, birds at her bird feeders, snow falling, frost designs on windows, dew on spider webs, sunrises and sunsets, rain drops, rainbows, and stars in the sky. She had a knack of arranging flowers from her garden, which added joy and beauty to the dinner table. She also loved rocks and feathers and their unique colors and designs. She taught her children to enjoy these treasures of nature as well.

Johna was blessed. More importantly she blessed others with her gifts. Her husband Russell battled Alzheimer's. Though it was an emotional and trying road, she remained a consistent, loving, and supportive spouse. She was an example of how we need to love even when it is difficult and trying. She would spend time every day with Russell even when he did not recognize her. One

year on their wedding anniversary, she went to the memory care unit to visit Russell at lunch. He said hello with vacant eyes and did not know her. She was kind and visited with him and helped him eat but did not mention anything about their anniversary. She kissed his cheek and headed home. She felt sad, but accepted the reality of his illness. Later that afternoon, she was rewarded with a phone call from one of his nurses who told her, "Johna, Russell said the nicest thing today about you." He had asked the nurse: "I don't know who that girl is. Do you know?" He then said, "well I don't know who that girl is, but I am going to marry her someday!" Johna appreciated that kind and loving phone call from his nurse, which helped her know she had made an emotional imprint with him and, at some level, he still knew her. She returned to Russell each day, knowing in her heart that her supporting long love was worthwhile. She was loved and taught us all to love well and love long.

We are so very thankful that she was able to live out her life in full at her home, where she adored her cats, all of the wild creatures that came to her yard, and simply sitting in her backyard sanctuary. Mom, you are truly blessed and a blessing to us. You were always so thankful for those who helped you along and told them so. You taught us to love the Lord and have a relationship with him in daily prayers. We thank you that you lifted all your family, friends, pets, and neighbors up every morning in prayer. We all felt those prayers. Thank you. You showed us how to be strong and stay the course even when it was not easy. You were feisty and driven. Thank you for telling us that if anyone messes with us or your grand kiddos, we need to tell them that Grandma will break their kneecaps! You showed us how to enjoy what is really important. Now we imagine you enjoying one of your favorites, the Blue Danube Waltz, maybe sharing a lovely dance with Russell (our dad), your favorite dance partner. We love you completely Mom, Gma, Johna Jean, and know how much you loved us all. Thank you for your heart and all the treasures you taught us. We miss you so very much and will see you again in Heaven. We wish you Godspeed. Our hearts are soaring that you are in a

beautiful and glorious place. Thank you, Lord, for the gift of Johna Jean Schauer Hastings.

Johna was preceded in death by her husband Russell Theodore Hastings, daughter Elizabeth Hastings of Texas, and her parents John William & Irene (Collins) Schauer of Ohio. She is survived by her daughters Catherine Gehres (Jay) of Ohio and Vanessa Wilkinson (Wyatt) of Colorado, grandchildren Adrienne (Tomaz), Tony, Justin (Rachel), Bryon (Rachel), Collin (Zoe), Austin (Ashley), Ian, Charlie, Abby, and great grandchildren Owen, Sebastian, Mara, and Dominic.

A private celebration will be held for the immediate family. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to your favorite wildlife charity in Johna's memory.

Tribute Wall



“ *Your mom was a lovely woman! I'm so pleased to have met her and see her kind essence in her daughters. What a blessing she was. I'm so sorry for your loss. Lisa Politz*

Lisa - April 25, 2024 at 08:47 AM



“ *Johna Jean Schauer Hastings*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *Cathy, Vanessa and family,
I was so sorry to hear from my mom about your mom's passing. I am happy though that my mom recently visited her and they were able to spend some time together. You mom was a very, very dear friend to my mom. I have so many fond memories with your family from my childhood. I was always amazed at your mom's artistic talents. Every year we hang the ukrainian egg ornament she made us for our wedding on our Christmas tree and I think of her and smile. I remember spending hours in your basement playing dress up with all the dresses you had. Also, hours and hours outside playing anything and everything. I enjoyed seeing all the pictures you posted. Thank you for doing that. What a beautiful family! You can just see how proud your mom was. Thinking about you all.
Sheila English Evans*

Sheila Evans - February 28, 2021 at 05:44 PM

VW

Thank you Sheila for all the kind words. You were definitely an important part of our life growing up and Mom enjoyed keeping us updated on your life via your Mom! I loved that they were dedicated to at least an annual bday lunch each year. Take care.

Vanessa Wilkinson - March 01, 2021 at 04:19 PM

FS

“ Loved both Johna and Russel. Still have some of the eggs she colored for me. Prayers for the family. Fred schill

fred schill - January 04, 2021 at 09:08 PM

VW

Thank you for the kind words Dr Schill!!!

Vanessa Wilkinson - January 12, 2021 at 03:39 PM

CG

Thank you Fred! They loved you too! Thank you for your kind words.

Cathy Gehres - January 13, 2021 at 06:06 PM

ED

*“ Dear Cathy and siblings,
I know your mom was loved by many. The ornaments for Brenna and Shannon will always have a special place in my heart because they were handmade and absolutely beautiful. They are still on my tree 27 years later. I know heaven has a special place for her.*

Elaine and Brad Darroch - December 24, 2020 at 10:12 AM

CG

Thank you! It was an extra special Christmas and all of her handmade ornaments especially the eggs were more brilliant on this year's tree. It is amazing how many times I go to check in with her and catch myself. I hope everyone is doing well in your family. Much love to you all and again thank you!

Cathy Gehres - January 13, 2021 at 06:09 PM

JD

“ Your parents were among the first to welcome us to Worthington Hills in September 1994. They, and the Whippets, stopped and talked to us on their daily walks. Yesterday we decorated our tree and I hung the beautiful egg ornament Johna painted and gave to me. She will always be with us and will remain in my heart. God bless.

Jean Davidson

Jean Davidson - December 20, 2020 at 12:08 PM

CG

Thank you Jean. They enjoyed taking their walks for certain. I am so glad you have a special ornament. Blessings to you and your family. Thank you for your kindness.

Cathy Gehres - January 13, 2021 at 06:10 PM

SB

“ *Dear Hasting Family,*
I so loved having you in English classes at WHS. Your mom and dad were so supportive of you and the school, and it's many programs. I always enjoyed seeing them at school activities and believed they should have given lessons on parenting and supporting children! I'm so sorry to hear of your dad's Alzheimer's and his passing and your dear mother's passing. You were so fortunate and Worthington is a little less without them in the community.

Susan Bookwalter - December 20, 2020 at 09:40 AM

CG

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Cathy Gehres - December 19, 2020 at 09:58 AM

VW

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Vanessa Wilkinson - December 18, 2020 at 08:04 PM

VW

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Vanessa Wilkinson - December 18, 2020 at 05:33 PM

VW

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Vanessa Wilkinson - December 18, 2020 at 05:16 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Rutherford Funeral Homes - December 18, 2020 at 04:07 PM

VW

Johna at Evening Street Elementary School circa 1980's

Vanessa Wilkinson - December 18, 2020 at 05:17 PM

CA

*I am pretty sure that this photo is from Worthington Park School which opened with Johna as secretary in 1988. That desk in the background was mine for 25 years until I retired in 2013. I have so many fond memories of those days. Johna was a great co worker and an even better friend and the fastest typist ever! Just last week I hung many of her amazing Ukrainian eggs on my Christmas tree. She will be remembered and missed ❤️
Carolyn Alkire*

Carolyn Alkire - December 20, 2020 at 07:28 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Rutherford Funeral Homes - December 18, 2020 at 03:59 PM