

## Jeanette Vivien Rasmuson

Jeanette “Jan” Rasmuson was born and raised in Rockwell City, Iowa. She grew up with one brother, Donald and three sisters, Evelyn, Eileen and Carolyn. Her parents were Carl and Vivien Ramuson.

She came to Omaha after high school and in 1966 graduated from the Clarkson Hospital School of Nursing with a diploma in nursing. She spent the largest majority of her adult life doing just what she loved, nursing.

She came to UNMC and worked on 5-West from March of 1972 until July of 1975 when she transferred to the internal medicine clinic. She worked primarily in the cardiology, dermatology, and oncology clinics where she was known for her commitment to nursing and her excellence in patient care. In December of 1990, she came to the radiology department where she worked in CT and MRI. She was one of the first nurses in this department and was a big part in the development of the radiology nurses today. She ended her career in the radiology department as the sedation scheduling nurse and was well known to most clinics here at The Nebraska Medical Center.

Jan was recognized by several awards during her career. As a senior in nursing school she was selected from among ten candidates by the Omaha sportswriters and sportscasters as College World Series Queen. In 1987, on National Nurses Day she was the first recipient of the Mary Bulger Nurse Excellence Award in ambulatory care. In her own thoughts about that award she stated, “It is a tremendous honor to be the first recipient! I think of the award many times as I’m doing my work, and then try to do my work better. There are expectations to live up to!”

Again in October of 1992, the UNMC medical staff presented her with University Hospital’s Nurse Recognition Award. Nurses are nominated for this award by members of the medical staff. They are recognized at each tri-annual general meeting of the medical staff. In 1994, she attained level IV of the STARR program, which was a staff nurse classification program. She was an active member of the American Radiological Nurses Association for many years.

Jan enjoyed lots of things and when she was in better health was involved in many different activities. She was at one time an avid runner. She enjoyed the museums and libraries of the city and loved to read, especially “The New Yorker” magazine.

She volunteered at the Omaha Community Playhouse several years. She was a very crafty person and once at a craft fair in Regency she noticed some quilling that she wanted to learn so she found out who had done this and contacted that person. That was Sister Consulata at the Convent of the Sisters of Notre Dame here in Omaha. Jan had a heart for other people who served and spent hours at the convent learning to do the craft of quilling and sharing her craft of stamping. Jan enjoyed socializing with the sisters and often brought birthday cakes to share on their special day.

Jan was a faithful and dedicated employee here for 35 years and will be sorely missed by many. Many notes of thanks were received by Jan both from patients and families alike. She was a gracious and kind person who spent life not waiting for the storms to pass, but learning how to dance in the rain. As one patient wrote, "Without reservation I can say that Jan provided the best professional medical care and genuine concern of any medical professional I have met."

Because of Jan's genuine care of the patient and not wanting anyone's care to be compromised due to a lack of family funds or other basic needs we know that it would be her wish that any memorials be made to The Nebraska Medical Center's Patient Assistance Fund.