



## Joe Ann Steele

February 26, 1943 - July 24, 2016

ADRIAN – Joe Ann Steele, age 73, of Adrian, passed away Sunday, July 24, 2016 at her home.

She was born February 26, 1943, in Guin, Alabama. She was the daughter of Gifford and Martha (Evans) Draper. Joe Ann graduated from Adrian High School with the Class of 1960.

On January 27, 1961, she married the love of her life, Harry B. Steele Jr. in Angola, Indiana. He preceded her in death in 1996, having shared 35 years together. They created a beautiful life together and were the epitome of true love.

In 1989, Joe Ann and her husband Harry created the Joe Ann Steele Insurance Center. Because of her deep love, affection and dedication to her clients and our community, Joe Ann became one of the most successful entrepreneurial small business women in Downtown Adrian. She accredited her success to the people of Lenawee County. Joe Ann has received numerous awards for her many accomplishments, including the Athena Award, the Amelia Earhart Award, and the Better Business Bureau's Business in Ethics Award, to mention a few. Joe Ann was a familiar voice with her radio shows on WABJ and WLEN, promoting local businesses and community events. Joe Ann had a deep passion for helping anyone and everyone who

crossed her path. She was a mentor to many individuals and businesses. Her greatest joy was to see people succeed in business and in life. Joe Ann was a strong believer in the Golden Rule – do unto others as you would have them do unto to you.

Joe Ann will be sadly missed by all. She was a true inspiration to all who knew her.

She is survived by her three children: Rusty (Robin) Steele, Dusty (Lisa Lambright) Steele, and Susan (Ben Powell) Steele all of Adrian; her siblings: Cathy (Vance) Roden of Georgia and Hyman Draper of Adrian; grandchildren: Fallon Bull, Alexandra Steele, Jonathan Steele, Sydney Steele, Drake Lambright and April Wolf; great grandson, Jett Herriman; cousin, Wilburn (Doris) Gann; and her beloved dog, Bella Sophia.

A Celebration of Joe Ann's Life will take place at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, July 30, 2016, at Wagley Funeral Home with Pastor Olivia Nickelson officiating. Burial will follow at St. John's Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Friday from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Those wishing to make a contribution in memory of Joe Ann should consider the Lenawee Humane Society or the local chapter of the American Red Cross. Online condolences and memories may be shared at [www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com](http://www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com).

# Cemetery Details

## **St. John's Cemtery**

Oakwood Road  
Adrian, MI 49221

# Tribute Wall



“ Joe Ann Steele

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ Steele Family:

*I write this note with a heavy heart but to say thank you as well. Joe Ann (as Rusty, Dusty & Susie know) was a true blessing for me. She believed in all of us and told us we could do anything we put our minds to and put the work in to achieve it. We have all been blessed in our lives and I know some of my blessings are a direct reflection of Joe Ann's work, support and guidance. My memories of the house on Frank Street and Harry & Joe Ann's parenting and life lessons will never be forgotten.*

*I wish her a wonderful home going (like she helped me to have for my mother) and want you to all stay strong!*

*God Bless*

*Troy (Carmen) Henagan*

troy henagan - August 01, 2016 at 03:48 PM



“ Dear Susan and family,  
*Our deepest sympathies to all of you! We are so sad to hear of your mom's passing. She meant a great deal to our family and we loved her very much. Truly a special lady and friend! Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*Ellen & Kyle Johnson and family*

Ellen Johnson - July 30, 2016 at 09:29 PM

CM

“ A friend to Joe Ann in high school, we reconnected as adults and stayed with Joe Ann, and Bella, whenever my husband and I were in Adrian. We shared many conversations about being the country bumpkins who succeeded and found mates who filled our life with love. Now in Maryland, with less frequent travels to Adrian, I treasured the calls and cards from Joe Ann who never forgot a friend. I share your sadness that this loving, kind, caring and outspoken woman of courage will no longer be with us.  
Carolyn McShane

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**Carolyn (Kidman) McShane** - July 30, 2016 at 08:36 AM



Patricia  
Moyer-  
Fowler

“ Joe Ann was an amazing women, she was the leader of Adrian especially downtown. I was in shock to find out the news as I had just saw her 3 weeks ago with Susan. I told my daughter she's the voice of WLEN SAT MORNING SHoW. I LOVE TO listen to her voice was so calming and comforting. To her family my deepest sympathies I know hard it is to lose a loved one, parent, and grandparent. May the Lord be with you through this storm and may you rise up from it victoriously in his grace. Keep the memories alive and share often will make it easier in time. God's plan for her has been fulfilled and she's smiling from the pearly gates watching over you all. Love you all

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**Patricia Moyer-Fowler** - July 30, 2016 at 07:35 AM

TM

“ To Susan and your family` I am shocked and saddened to hear about the passing of your Mom. I have not been home so I am just now hearing about it this morning.  
My thoughts and prayers are with you all.  
God Bless~  
With deepest Sympathy,  
Toni Marcum (Bank of Lenawee)



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**Toni Marcum** - July 30, 2016 at 06:02 AM

LC

“ Joe Ann was fantastic, kind, gentle, strong, and supportive. She was a GIVER. She offered helpful financial advice without being pushy, and always enjoyed hearing silly stories about my kids' antics/adventures. She was appreciated and will be remembered fondly.  
Warm regards,  
Leslie, Don, Alison, and Janelle Carpenter



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**Leslie Carpenter** - July 29, 2016 at 10:27 AM

LM

“ for the families of Joe Ann. a, so sorry for the loss of your mom. This is a tough journey for you all. Susan, I know how much you and your mom shared and for that I know, you will miss her a lot, Being that she is now in Gods hands,no more suffering there, God bless you all and remember, we are here for you, too. love and prayers

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**Lois Morris** - July 28, 2016 at 11:30 AM



“ 100 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



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**Wagley Funeral Home** - July 28, 2016 at 11:27 AM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of *Joe Ann Steele*.



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July 28, 2016 at 10:54 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray* was purchased for the family of *Joe Ann Steele*.



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July 27, 2016 at 11:19 AM

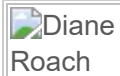


“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joe Ann Steele.*



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July 27, 2016 at 09:54 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers to the family of this beautiful lady. I was witness to her generosity of others many times. Joe Ann will be deeply missed, and her legacy of helping others will forever shine on. Rest In Peace Sweet Lady. XXOO*

*Diane Roach*

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**Diane Roach** - July 26, 2016 at 10:37 PM



“ *Very sorry to hear about Joe Anns passing. My best memory of her, on the lighter side, is of a water fight at my parents house. Joe Ann was chasing her friend Phyllis through our house with a glass of water, my Dad (Harold Stevens) had just woke from a nap and, standing in the bedroom doorway, asked "what the h... is going on? As Joe Ann passed by she dumped the glass of water on him! Of course he did retaliate, she went home that night quite wet!*

*God bless,  
Mike Stevens*

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**mike stevens** - July 26, 2016 at 09:37 PM

GW

“ My heart goes out to you all, she was such a classy lady and I always loved talking with her. She was so kind and gracious what a loss, she will be missed by a lot of people!

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**Gwen** - July 26, 2016 at 09:03 PM

MH

“ Joe Anne was my friend and advisor. She supported our family through her encouraging words - not only to me but also to the other members of my family. I got to know her better by knowing her children Dusty, Rusty and Susan. I will miss her but her memory will live in me for the rest of my live. May she fly with the angels. God Bless her family.

*Margretha Minster Harden*

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**Margretha Minster Harden** - July 26, 2016 at 05:59 PM

KM

“ Korinne & I want to share our deepest sympathy to the children, grandchildren, friends, and relatives of Joe Ann. We were blessed to get to know her well and work closely with her since we came to Adrian with Gleaner Life Insurance Society in 2012. She has left an indelible mark on this community and on the many Gleaner members whose financial security she worked so hard to help secure. We look forward to helping Susan continue to keep Joe Ann's commitments to her clients and to community service for the good of Lenawee County. Rest in peace dear friend. Kevin Marti

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**Kevin Marti** - July 26, 2016 at 12:27 PM

TC

“ Tommy Childress lit a candle in memory of Joe Ann Steele



Tommy Childress - July 26, 2016 at 12:01 PM

TC

*you was to me a very warm loving and caring Mother, grand mother and friend to many, you have a grateful loving spirit that you shared with many, yes you are so missed and would always have a place in my heart, i thank God that you came into my life and we got to share listening and sharing with each other, my hope today would be that your family allow the pain to pass and smile from the blessing of having you to teach them to be strong, you are a blessing missed from within and life would not be the same at this time, love you so much Joe Ann Steele..*  
Tommy

Tommy Childress - July 26, 2016 at 12:09 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joe Ann Steele.



July 26, 2016 at 11:20 AM

DH

“ A special tribute to a very special lady, an example of vision, courage, leadership, determination, community service, wisdom and true dedication. Her story is an inspiration for all. Having known her and her family for over 30 years, we join her children and their families in celebrating her life. May her Soul Rest In Peace. Her Memory will be eternal.

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**Dr. Inad & Liliane Haddad** - July 26, 2016 at 09:25 AM

CP

“ Charlie Phipps lit a candle in memory of Joe Ann Steele



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**charlie phipps** - July 26, 2016 at 09:21 AM

DS

“ I lived with Joe Ann and my father when I was a teen and she and I were more like friends than step-mother and step-daughter. We had a lot of fun laughing and acting silly. She was there for me when I graduated high school, got married to Ed, and many more life journeys. I worked with her at Joe Ann Steele Insurance and on some of the charity events she sponsored until I moved to Florida in 1990. I have a lot of memories to cherish. Joe Ann was a kind and generous person and will be greatly missed.

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**Dianna Sanborn** - July 26, 2016 at 09:21 AM

PS

“ Joe Ann's love and encouragement for Adrian, friends, and family is her legacy. There was no dream too big that she would not do every thing in her power to help you realize. Her heart true and golden anyone who knew her was blessed. Prayers to friends and family that she has left to be with her true love Harry and her Lord in Heaven.

Phyllis Swalwell - July 26, 2016 at 09:19 AM

RR

“ We were saddened by the news of Joe Ann's passing. Our condolences to the family and the Adrian Community. Joe Ann was a stalwart as a person, as a business owner, as a woman. We thank her for the many things she did to promote small town business and community. Joe Ann will be missed, but her memories will sustain each of us.



Roger/Lucretia Rutan - July 26, 2016 at 08:43 AM

TF

“ My deepest sympathy to the Steele family. Rest in peace Joe Ann.



Tina Faust - July 26, 2016 at 07:43 AM

AC

“ Joe Ann will be missed by so many people. Loved how she loved to just sit and chat whenever I was in her office. She was a very sweet, kind, caring and giving person. She told me Dave told her to "take care of me" when he was gone. I will miss her trusting care. Prayers to her family and many close friends. Miss you already Joe Ann.

Ann Chrysler - July 26, 2016 at 07:13 AM

JJ

“ Rest in peace beautiful lady.



Judy Jordan - July 25, 2016 at 09:15 PM

CP

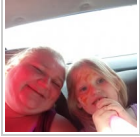
Our prayers go out to the Steele family. Charlie Phipps

charlie phipps - July 26, 2016 at 09:19 AM

Awilda Domingue

“ Our condolences to the family. Prayers for strength and consolation for family and friends. Joe Ann touched many lives in our community!!!! She will be missed for family and friends!!! Rest in peace.

Awilda Dominguez - July 25, 2016 at 08:29 PM



“ *Joyce Adams lit a candle in memory of Joe Ann Steele*



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**Joyce Adams** - July 25, 2016 at 07:55 PM

JA

“ *Joyce Adams lit a candle in memory of Joe Ann Steele*



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**Joyce Adams** - July 25, 2016 at 07:54 PM

LM

“ *Joe Ann was such a beautiful person... She knew no prejudice in any human life. Joe was such an encourager, no matter where your talents may be. Wanting Lenawee County to shine... Joe Ann's secret was no secret... It was love.*

*My condolences to all 3 children, Susie, Dusty and Rusty... Her siblings , cousins and all her much adored grandchildren.*

*ox... I feel as though I know you all from each endearing story she told.*

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**Linda Martinez** - July 25, 2016 at 05:31 PM

DH

“ *Joe Ann was such a loving person. She had the ability to inspire people and she was a wonderful mentor. I will cherish my memories. Rest in Peace.*

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**Diane Hurlbut** - July 25, 2016 at 03:50 PM