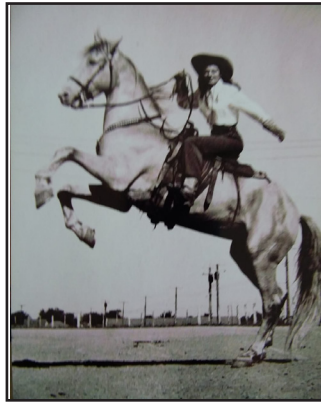


Joan M. Spidler

August 9, 1932

March 1, 2024



Joan M. Spidler of Owosso passed away Friday, March 1, 2024 in her home surrounded by her family, friends and her pets, as she desired.

Funeral services will be held 11am Saturday, March 9, 2024 at First Congregational Church with Reverend Deb Grazier officiating. Burial will follow at Maple River Cemetery. The horse drawn carriage will go in procession beginning at 2pm to the cemetery with 4-H and Trail Riders following down Vandecarr Road to Cook Road (the dirt road part of Cook Rd. between Hibbard Road and Bennington Road) Folks can park on Cook Road to watch the procession. The family will receive friends at Nelson-House Funeral Home on Thursday, March 7, 2024 from 6pm- 8pm and Friday, March 8, 2024 from 2pm-8pm.

Joan was born in Bad Axe, 92 years ago to Alice (Bolly) and Calvin Shoemaker, who was the founder of the Huron Daily News and her mother, a registered Pharmacist.

So many lives have been touched by Joan Spidler. She was truly a force. Joan was a wife, mother, friend and teacher. She taught high school Biology, was a swimming instructor and 4-H Rangers Horse Club leader for over 65 years. She was a founding member of the Shiawassee Trail Riders in 1961 and Sleepy Hollow Trail Riders. She rode horses across the State of Michigan as a Michigan Trail Rider at least 10 times. Joan was a member of the Michigan Horse Drawn Vehicle Association and crossed the state several times in her beautifully restored carriage with her saddle bred Beau.

Joan was recognized with numerous awards for her 4-H Leadership of over 65 years, receiving Local, State and National awards and recognition. She also showed her Three-Gaited Saddlebred both under saddle and harness winning many awards over the years.

Joan's greatest accomplishment was marrying the love of her life, John Spindler and raising her son, John and daughters Janet, Jeri and Jennifer who were all accomplished equestrians and winners of many championships. Johnny began to partner on racehorses with his dad but "Don't tell Mom". The Spindler family racehorse breeding program producing many champions and later developed a stable of winning race horses with Jeri driving at the county fairs and Michigan race tracks.

Later with death of partner Bill Deters, they continued the racing partnerships with Bill's son Michael Deters in Florida, who is now considered family.

Her 4-H career was moved forward with her friend Mary Kendall Mallory beginning as her co-leader and now leader of the Rangers 4-H Club, who is more family than friend.

The inspiration of the John and Joan Spindler 4-H Sportsmanship Award at the Shiawassee County Fair beginning in 2015 was her daughter Jennifer.

Joan started many off shoot 4-H clubs when there were kids that showed an interest, such as Animal Science, horse judging and Hippology. She loved sharing her love of Botany. You couldn't ride through the woods without learning about all the flora and fauna you passed. Joan was always a teacher, whether it was horses, flowers or life. She passed along her bits of wisdom.

After a ride she always invited everyone in for either hot cocoa or ice cream and her homemade hot fudge. She loved to entertain and play cards or just sit and take in a campfire with friends. She was always ready to throw the horses in the trailer and head north to the trails and take along anyone that wanted to go.

Joan is survived by her son, John Calvin Spindler, daughter Janet Spindler and her wife Elissa Pryor, grandchildren Cameron, Samuel and Natalie Goulooze and their father

Dan, family members and friends.

She was predeceased in 2019 by her beloved husband of 64 years and her daughters Jennifer in 2015 and Jeri in 2016.

