





In Memoriam

# Janet McConnell

1954–2021

AIST is saddened to announce the passing of our beloved co-worker and friend, Janet McConnell, on 30 August 2021. She was 66.

Janet was the loving companion of Tom Wess; beloved daughter of the late Jack and Mary McConnell; loving niece of Agnes McConnell and the late Irene McConnell; sister of Renee Thimoleas and Jerry McConnell; aunt to Stacey Good, Tyler McConnell and Madison McConnell; and loving “Gigi” to Jacob, Jacklynn, Arden and soon-to-be-born Charlotte. After the passing of her dearest friend Carol Schirano she became second mom to Gloria Gesky and “Yaya” to Courtney Gesky-Lepsch. She was preceded in death by her beloved Yorkie, Miss Molly.

Janet worked for AIST and its predecessor, the Association of Iron and Steel Engineers (AISE), for 43 years. She joined AISE in 1977 as a secretary. She moved to the publications department as electronic publishing coordinator in 1992, and then production editor in 1998, a position she held for 22 years. She retired in September 2020.

Just one year ago, AIST celebrated Janet’s retirement, with staff members trading their favorite stories about Janet and sharing photos of her through the years. While we are heartbroken that she didn’t get to fully enjoy her much-deserved retirement, we take comfort in knowing that she lived life to its fullest and always carried an infectious positive outlook.

For more than 40 years, she helped to ensure *Iron & Steel Technology* landed in your mailbox each month. Her attention to detail, tenacity and can-do attitude helped her teammates get through even the most challenging projects. She touched the lives of not only her AIST co-workers, but our many members and clients as well.

While Janet was an exemplary employee, she was an even better friend — generous, encouraging, caring and truly interested in the lives of others.

“Janet’s whole philosophy was just to be a good person,” said AIST executive director Ron Ashburn. “She always had a positive attitude and a smile. I cherished her as a friend and colleague.”

AIST offers its heartfelt condolences to Janet’s family and friends. She will be sorely missed.

