

Today we have come together to honor the memory of Jo-an Katherine Thompson.

She was born in 1930, in a time very different than our own ... yet in many ways similar.

Also born in 1930 were: Roy Disney, Buzz Aldrin, Gene Hackman, Arlen Specter, Steve McQueen, Clint Eastwood, Jim Neighbors, Neil Armstrong, Sean Connery, and Warren Buffet.

Many 'new' things occurred in 1930.

Mickey Mouse and Betty Boop were two new comics.

The planet ... or now, 'dwarf planet' ... Pluto was confirmed to exist by astronomers.

Clarence Birdseye began selling frozen foods.

Mohandes Ghandi began his campaign of civil disobedience. Hostess Twinkies were invented. And perhaps coincidentally, within days DuPont invented Neoprene.

Also in another odd coincidence, 45 days after Jo-an was born, the BBC reported from London, that on April 18, "There is no news" today.

The first baseball night game happened that Spring. And on Mount Rushmore, the first sculpture - that of George Washington - was completed.

The US Department of Veterans Affairs was established.

And Ruth Wakefield of the Toll House Inn, invents the chocolate chip cookie.

In the reading we heard this morning from Revelation, Saint John the Evangelist writes of a vision of "*a new heaven and a new earth.*"

And from the right hand of God, Jesus says: "*Behold, I make all things new.*"

For us in this life, what is new is always a passing thing.

For Jo-an in her new life with Christ in Eternity, all things are new.

And so, more than honoring a beloved relative for a life well-lived, let us accompany Jo-an with our prayers. Knowing that the ties of love and affection created in this world unite us with those we love in the next.

Eternal rest ...