



JoAnn Gillespie

January 30, 1946 - November 5, 2015

JoAnn Bellows Gillespie

January 30, 1946 –November 5, 2015

JoAnn Bellows Gillespie was born in Fort Worth, Texas January 30, 1946 to Lynn J. and NaDean Davis Bellows. She peacefully passed away Thursday, November 5, 2015 in her home in Provo, Utah after a long battle with Dementia.

JoAnn graduated from Orem High School in 1964 and Brigham Young University in 1966. She married her high school sweetheart, Paul A. Gillespie in the Salt Lake Temple on April 4, 1968. She was a devoted wife, mother of 8 children, and grandmother of 25.

JoAnn was known for her radiant smile and impacted the lives of hundreds of people she came in contact with. JoAnn was an extremely hard worker. She was employed at grocery stores, insurance companies, Brigham Young University, and credit unions. She was a manager at Utah Community Credit Union for ten years.

Her work included several church callings, building homes with her husband, and raising her 8 children in the gospel. She had a great passion for working with the youth in the church, in young women, in the Missionary Training Center, and at the Provo Canyon School.

As a mother she taught her children the importance of working hard, playing hard, and living the gospel. Her sense of humor provided happiness, joy, and balance in the home.

One of the highlights in her early life was the opportunity to serve at the Hill Cumorah Pageant in New York State. Later in life she loved to travel with her family or her husband to any place that was warm.

JoAnn is survived by her devoted husband, Paul A. Gillespie, her father Lynn J. Bellows, her eight children Kimberly (Brad) Anderson, Stephanie (Andrew) Horton, LauraLee

Gillespie, Kelly Gillespie, Kerri (Matthew) Larsen, Kristopher (Michelle) Gillespie, Julie (Jeffrey) LeCheminant, and Spencer (Angie) Gillespie, 25 grandchildren, and her sisters Mary Beardall, Linda Olsen, and Kris Chistensen. She is preceded in death by her mother NaDean Davis Bellows, and sister Carolyn Louder.

JoAnn was greatly cared for by CNS Hospice Care, with special thanks to Heather McAllister, and Monica Boyer. She was deeply and patiently cared for by her daughter Kelly and loving husband Paul.

Funeral Services for JoAnn will be held Monday, November 9th, at 11:00 am, at Edgemont 7th Ward, 555 East 3230 North, Provo, Utah, where Viewings will be held Sunday, November 8th, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, and prior to services on Monday from 9:30 am to 10:30 am. Interment in Orem City Cemetery, 1520 North 800 East, Orem, Utah.

Funeral Directors: Utah Valley Mortuary.

Cemetery

Orem City Cemetery

1520 North 800 East
Orem, UT, 84097

Events

NOV 8 Viewing 06:30PM - 08:30PM

8

Edgemont 7th Ward
555 East 3230 North, Provo, UT, US

NOV 9 Viewing 09:30AM - 10:30AM

9

Edgemont 7th Ward
555 East 3230 North, Provo, UT, US

NOV 9 Funeral Service 11:00AM - 12:00PM

9

Edgemont 7th Ward
555 East 3230 North, Provo, UT, US

Comments



“ I have so many sweet and pleasant memories of Aunt JoAnn. She always had such a fun sense of humor. I loved to be around her! When I was at BYU I was working at the Universal Campus Credit Union. JoAnn came in one day while I was there, and mentioned that she might like to work there. I told her I'd take her up and introduce her to the management. It just so happened that they were all in a meeting, which we interrupted so that I could introduce them to JoAnn, so she got to meet them all together. She was so funny! She said several times, "If I'd known this was going to happen, I would have brushed my teeth this morning." And then later, "If I'd known I was going to meet you all today, I've have put on deodorant." She made us all laugh and laugh. She had such a great way of putting people at ease with her humor. Of course, she got the job and they loved her. I remember feeling really proud of her, and proud to be her niece as I was watching her interact with the big wigs at UCCU.

Another memory was Aunt JoAnn's chocolate cake--with the secret ingredient of vinegar. I thought her cake was the most delicious chocolate cake ever. I always looked forward to it at our monthly Gillespie reunions! She always told us there was a secret ingredient, but didn't ever tell that it was vinegar until I got the recipe from her as an adult.

As kids we loved to know that Aunt JoAnn was so sensitive to bad language that she would call her kids to come into the house if they were playing outside with neighbors that said the word, "bum." In her house, "bum" was a bad word. My dad was delighted when he found a brand of "bum gum" on a church trip to Panama and he bought her a huge jar of "bum gum." Oh, we laughed and laughed and laughed when he gave it to her. She had some funny things to say about that, but she was a such a good sport!

As a young teen I loved to watch Aunt JoAnn interact with Uncle Paul. She was so playful and sweet with him. They adored each other even after years of marriage and many kids. They had such a good marriage. I remember at the hot springs in Idaho when we were on a Gillespie family trip that JoAnn stood on the side of their van/car and hopped onto Uncle Paul's back, piggy back style and he gave her piggy back ride all the way up to the cabin.. That was something so playful--I just couldn't imagine my mom doing that to my dad (of course, my mom had a stronger back than my dad). My mom used to hold Aunt JoAnn up as an example for us. She said that Aunt JoAnn always made Uncle Paul feel so good about himself when they were dating. She was a builder--she really built him up! She was not only a builder to Paul--she made everyone that she was around feel good. She was such a positive person--never snarky or cynical.

Aunt JoAnn used to make homemade candies every year for Christmas and we'd say to our mom, "Why can't you be like Aunt JoAnn and make homemade candies?" When my mom told Aunt JoAnn this, Aunt JoAnn said, "My kids always say, 'Why can't you make doughnuts like Aunt Trea does with her kids?'" See how she was able to turn that compliment to her into a compliment to Petrea! She was so good that way!

When I was young we got together with the Gillespie family often--at least monthly

for potlucks and get togethers. While the other cousins were off playing, I used to stay behind and listen to the adults talk. That was so much more fun and more entertaining than playing with the kids. Mostly, I liked to hear Aunt JoAnn tell stories. I mean, all of the Uncles and Aunts were entertaining, but Aunt JoAnn always had some good stories to tell!

Megan McQuivey - November 16, 2015 at 03:35 PM



“ Dear Paul and family, I was deeply saddened when I just learned today of Joann's passing. I lost my own husband, Dan Jones, on October 30th and his funeral was held November 5th, the same day your sweet wife passed away. I know how you are feeling right now and my heart goes out to you. Our blessings are our children who will surround you and make this huge loss less painful. I don't have a lot of advice because I'm still figuring how to get through my own loss. I hope you feel the loving arms of our Savior who will envelope you with His love and comfort. May God's choicest blessings be showered upon you. Joann was one of the "special spirits", and that's how I feel about Dan.

All my sincere sympathies,
Sheryl Hansen Jones
Orem High Class of '64



Sheryl Jones - November 11, 2015 at 12:21 AM



“ JoAnn...my sweet wonderful friend, that I adore and love. You were sunshine to my soul. Heaven is blessed with your presence.

Much love to Paul and your children,
Jeannine Beck

Jeannine Beck - November 09, 2015 at 12:52 PM



“ I remember at Alexis' reception I wanted to meet JoAnn. So I walked up to her where she was sitting with her husband and Kim's brother. When I went to introduce myself to her, she literally lit up with the sweetest smile like we had known each other forever. I loved it. I wasn't fortunate enough to get to know her well, but I do know Kim well and her sister Stephanie. And given the type of women those two are, JoAnn must have been an amazing mother. Sending so much love from Seattle! ?



Tiffne Hartlein - November 07, 2015 at 04:39 PM



“ Joann was more than my manager, she was my friend. I have missed her and will continue to do so. My love to Paul and the Gillespie family.



Lori Pine - November 07, 2015 at 10:23 AM



“ What a wonderful example of hard work and motherhood. God bless!
- Linda Bowles



Linda Bowles - November 07, 2015 at 09:55 AM



“ JoAnn was the most incredible woman. I worked for her while attending college and was always amazed at how intelligent, pretty, and thoughtful she was. If you were struggling she was the first to call you in her office and ask if there was anything she could do. One particular attribute I always admired was how her family was her priority. She was an incredible example of how you can be accomplished in the workforce and still have family be number one. Our prayers are with your family during this time. She touched countless lives and is loved by many. She will be missed.

Love, Owen

Owen Wolfgramm - November 07, 2015 at 01:32 AM



“ I loved how she would always tell me that she was my favorite aunt. I still make her chocolate cake recipe and always loved going to her home. When Grandma Gillespie passed away - she hosted all of us cousins at her house for a sleepover (and someone thought it was a good idea to watch the Shinning! We were not very smart kids). She was thoughtful, kind, warm and loving. She will be missed!

Elizabeth Kelly Allen - November 06, 2015 at 09:19 PM



“ I remember when she was working at Timpview High School. She called me to tell me she got my son Todd out of his class to come to the front office to autograph a newspaper article /photo that he was in from football. She loved the fact that he looked scared to death as he approached her desk, wondering what he had done. JoAnn was always there for me to talk to and sincerely cared for me and my family. This sweet lady will forever be in my heart. I know she will be watching over her sweet husband and family closely as they are her life. Rest my dear friend..until we meet again.

Tina Salmon - November 06, 2015 at 05:29 PM



“ Joann was always a strong yet funny woman who I looked up to... But when I was in high school, she taught my class in church- I believe it was temple prep. I got to know her so much better and just loved and respected her that much more. She was real, she made me laugh, and yet she spoke her mind and her truth no matter what. I cared deeply for her. Love to everyone still here, and to Joann.



brittany reynolds faiga - November 06, 2015 at 04:27 PM



“ I will never forget this beautiful lady. She is the BEST! I was a high school student, friends with her daughter Julie and niece Jan and we did everything together. I would be at their home daily and stay until the next morning or longer most days... Sweet JoAnn would take care of us, laugh with us, and make sure that everyone in her home felt welcome and wanted. One of the greatest life lessons that I learned from this incredible woman was the importance of listening and making people feel 100% welcome and wanted. She would listen to us complain about the basic drama of High school and offer advice and love always centered around Christ and forgiveness. She would always wipe any tears we may have had and be the first to offer a hug, dinner and countless kisses and warmth. Thank you sweet JoAnn for making everyone welcome and most importantly loved always. You and Paul raised incredible strong and wonderful children some of my fondest memories were spent in the comforts of your home and with your family! My deepest Love and prayers extended to all you wonderful Gillespie Children and Coach! You are all an incredible tribute to a marvelous woman I was blessed to know!

Amber Smith - November 06, 2015 at 03:58 PM



“ couldn't have said it better!

brittany reynolds faiga - November 06, 2015 at 04:28 PM



“ There are no adequate words to express our feelings about this great lady. She was instrumental in our joining the Church of Jesus Christ, she was beautiful inside and out, she was generous and outgoing, always happy, always teaching us new things, always giving us something she had made (beautiful quilt), and always helping us. We loved her and who she is. Our deepest sympathy to all the family. We rejoice in her happiness today in a much better place. Love Bel and Darold Henry

Bel Henry - November 06, 2015 at 09:23 AM



“ So many memories and so many years of them. Our lives were richer because of Joann's love, humor and service. Christmas dinners, backyard BBQ's and special occasions won't be the same without you my dear friend. We have laughed, cried and celebrated together. Until we meet again. Aloha, kauos

Linda kauo - November 06, 2015 at 07:29 PM



“ She was one of the classiest, most beautiful women in the ward. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Scott & Shelley Shupe

shelley shupe - November 08, 2015 at 10:49 AM



“ Paul and family, I remember JoAnn back when I was in high school and you were coaching at PGHS. I remember going to your home and how sweet JoAnn was. We offer our condolences and love to you and your family at this time.

Mike & LeAnn Ford--South Jordan, Utah

Mike Ford - November 08, 2015 at 01:07 PM