



JoAnn Milam

August 31, 1938 - May 19, 2026

JoAnn Milam was a loving wife, mother, and “Gigi”, whose life was defined by her deep love for her family. She cared for those around her in quiet, steadfast ways- through her actions, her presence, and her unwavering commitment to the people she held dear.

JoAnn Milam, 87 years old, passed from this earth on May 19, 2026 in Muskogee, Oklahoma. She was born on August 31, 1938 to Glen (Hughes) and John Gartner in Heavener, Oklahoma.

While JoAnn was introverted, underneath her quiet exterior was an opinionated and curious woman. Her spirited comments were a source of amusement for her family and solidified her status as matriarch of the family, with a good sense of humor.

JoAnn was a devoted wife to Philip W. Milam for 66 years, living without him for only 7 weeks. They enjoyed 12 trips to Hawaii, motorcycle trips to Las Vegas and Canada, camping at Greenleaf State Park, and multiple trips to Branson with all the family. Together they raised 3 children, Ralph, Karen, and Kristi and built a life centered around family.

JoAnn was a wonderful mother who showed her love through her actions. She allowed Karen to cook from a young age when it would have been much

easier and less mess to do it herself. She sewed the Easter dresses and made costumes. She took the kids to the library, let them check out as many books as was legal and did it again the next week. Her love only grew with the addition of her grandchildren and great grandchildren. When her third grandchild was born, she proclaimed this baby would be hers and she was right. She spoiled her fantastically. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren were her pride and joy. JoAnn never missed a birthday party, graduation, or holiday.

JoAnn wore many hats throughout her life. She was a homemaker, faithful church member, a babysitter, a gifted crafter, and a friend to many. Alongside her friend Flora Murphy, she spent many weekends at craft shows. JoAnn was a member of Eastern Heights Baptist Church for over 40 years and was credited with bringing her husband Phil into the Lord's fold.

JoAnn is preceded in death by her beloved husband, her parents, her brother Bobby, and youngest daughter, Kristi.

She is survived by her son Ralph (Terri) Milam of Muskogee; daughter Karen (John) Flusche of Muskogee, grandchildren, Ben (Jamie) Flusche of Tulsa, Jill (Levi) Watson of Muskogee, and Grace (Jace) Ogden of Sulphur Springs, Texas; and six great-grandchildren.

Graveside services for JoAnn Milam will be held at 11:00 am on Friday, May 22nd at Fort Gibson National Cemetery with Rev. James Easley officiating.

Cemetery Details

Fort Gibson National Cemetery

1423 Cemetery Rd
Fort Gibson, OK 74434
(918) 478-2334

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAY **22**. 11:00 AM (CT)

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1423 Cemetery Rd
Fort Gibson, OK 74434
(918) 478-2334

Tribute Wall

DM

“ *Debbie Myers lit a candle in memory of JoAnn Milam*



Debbie Myers - May 22 at 11:40 PM

DF

Joann and I were dear friends from our births in August 1938; she was bridesmaid at my wedding. Rest well.

Doris (Lazalier) Faulkenberry - May 27 at 09:42 PM