



Joan Portier Bennett

May 5, 1934 - March 6, 2026

Joan Portier Bennett, age 91, passed away peacefully on Friday, March 6, 2026.

The family will receive friends from 2:00–5:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at the Reflection Chapel. A service will be held at Georgia National Cemetery in Canton, Georgia, on Monday, March 23, 2026 at 11:00 am.

Joan was born on May 5, 1934, in Ocilla, Georgia, to the late William Walter and Nancy Whitley Portier. She met her husband, William “Bill” Bennett, through her sister while he was the basketball coach at Dodge County High School. Joan and Bill were true sweethearts. Married for 68 years- they built a life together while living in various parts of Georgia before eventually settling in Smyrna, where they made their home for over 60 years. After Bill’s passing in 2021, Joan relocated back to the Ocilla area to be with her family.

Joan worked in the public school system for many years, even working as Bill’s secretary at one time. After retiring from the school system, she continued working for many years at a CPA firm. She was an active member of Bethany United Methodist Church in Smyrna, where she served on the Social Committee for many years. She was a current member of Ocilla Baptist Church.

Joan will always be remembered as the “Queen of Christmas.” Every holiday season, her home was filled with the spirit of Christmas. Multiple Christmas trees, each with its own theme, were displayed throughout the house, along with her Charles Dickens Christmas Villages. She even had a “Christmas Room” where some of her favorite decorations were displayed year-round. Joan’s home reflected her sweet and welcoming spirit—always inviting and a place where family and friends could gather. She loved preparing meals for others. She was the family chef, always cooking and baking- many of her recipes are family favorites and staples in their homes. She also loved crafting and creating things for family and friends.

Joan was a devoted wife, mother, Mamaw/Honey, sister, and friend who leaves behind a legacy of genuine love and little traditions she created that will always be remembered.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Billy and Wanda Bennett; daughter, Beth Crumbley; five grandchildren, Dee (Lindsey) Bennett, Andy (Kacie) Bennett, Terry (Cristina) Crumbley, Brett (Jen) Crumbley, and Callie (Clae) Wynn; ten great-grandchildren, William, Elle, Allie, Sofia, Carlisle, Whitley, Michael, Bennett, Kennedy, and Maren; and one sister, Jeannie Ellis (Charlie Brady).

In addition to her parents and her husband, Joan was preceded in death by her son-in-law, Mike Crumbley, as well as six brothers and two sisters.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking that donations be made to the Paulk Family to help with McCoy's medical expenses. Checks can be made out to Clint or Maeby Paulk and mailed to 201 E. Boulevard, Ocilla, GA 31774.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **14**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Reflection Cremation & Funeral Service

106 12th St E

Tifton, GA 31794

(229) 445-3616

<https://www.reflectioncremation.com/>

Interment

MAR **23**. 11:00 AM.

Georgia National Cemetery- 1080 Scott Hudgens Dr Canton, GA 30114

Tribute Wall

LT

“ Love Cherry, Wayne, Robbie and Tami purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Joan Portier Bennett.



Love Cherry, Wayne, Robbie and Tami - March 14 at 09:33 AM

LT

“ Love Cherry, Wayne, Robbie and Tami planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joan Portier Bennett.

Love Cherry, Wayne, Robbie and Tami - March 14 at 09:33 AM

CM

“ Carlos and Aurora Muniz purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Joan Portier Bennett.



Carlos and Aurora Muniz - March 11 at 04:57 PM

RC

“ Ross Cox lit a candle in memory of Joan Portier Bennett



Ross Cox - March 11 at 12:33 PM

RC

RIP Sweet Lady

Ross Cox - March 11 at 12:33 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Joan Portier Bennett.*



March 09 at 11:12 PM