



Jo Ann Billings Jenkins

August 29, 1935 - January 28, 2019

Jo Ann Billings Jenkins, beloved daughter, wife, mother, and grandmother to greyhounds, was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on August 29, 1935, the beautiful daughter of the late Harry Price and Mary Catherine Billings. The family moved to Arizona when she was a baby, but Jo Ann grew up in Pennington Gap, Virginia. She graduated from Virginia Intermont College in Bristol, Virginia, and Georgetown College in Georgetown, Kentucky, and completed graduate work at the University of Kentucky.

Jo Ann was a devout member of First Baptist Church, where she was a Sunday school teacher, pianist, clerk, deacon, and preschool choir director. She absolutely adored the Golden Circle Sunday School Class.

Jo Ann belonged to numerous professional and music sororities and associations. She was a member of East Frankfort Kiwanis Club and served a term as its President.

Ms. Jenkins was a music teacher in the Georgetown City School system for 3 years and the Franklin County Public School system for over 27 years. She loved all of her students and felt that they were a big part of her life! She enjoyed seeing them through the years and was very proud of them. She quoted Nathaniel Hawthorne in her classes —“Happiness is a butterfly, which when pursued, is always just beyond your grasp, but which, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you.” Her choirs were among the best in the state.

Jo Ann won piano and speech contests, performed in and directed plays, was a cheerleader, and taught music and drama to Head Start teachers at Kentucky State University, the University of Louisville, and Northern Kentucky University. She taught music and drama at a camp in Colorado.

After retiring from teaching, Jo Ann worked full-time at Farmers Bank for many years and felt that it was the ONLY bank in town. She also worked part-time at the Legislative Research Commission for 10 years, finally retiring from all work in 2011. She had many friends with whom she enjoyed working.

Jo Ann loved life and wanted us to celebrate at this time, not mourn. She was preceded in passing by her parents; her beloved husband of over 50 years, Melville; and her brother, Robert “Bob” Billings and his wife, Mary. She is survived by her son, Robert and his husband, Randy, both whom she loved very much (Lexington); her brother, Harry Glenn

Billings and his wife, Melba (Woodward, OK); her nephew, Glenn S. Billings and his wife, Linda (Woodward, OK); her niece, Melina Clark and her husband, Lance (Woodward, OK); her nephew, Mike Billings and his wife, Janet (Tulsa, OK); her nephew, David Billings (Oklahoma City, OK); her niece, Liz Waggoner, (Oklahoma City, OK); and her niece, Janie Billings and her husband, Bill Frank (Yucca Valley, CA); two nephews-in-law, Gerald Parker (Lexington) and Jack Hamilton (Sacramento, CA); and many other relatives and very dear friends. Her Potluck Group of retired teachers and friends were also a big part of her “family,” sticking together and supporting each other through fun times, family tragedies, and all events in between.

Mom, you have given so much and asked for so little in return. Thank you for your support, for your ears, for your counsel, and for your love. Farewell, beautiful woman. You were simply magnificent.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Harrod Brothers Funeral Home at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, February 1, 2019, with Dr. Bob Browning officiating. A private family committal service will be held. Visitation will be at Harrod Brothers Funeral Home from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. service time on Friday.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that everyone “pay it forward” with random acts of kindness—opening doors, serving food to those less fortunate, volunteering with favorite charities. Donations may be made to First Baptist Church at the Singing Bridge (fbcfrankfort.info), Bluegrass Greyhound Adoption (bluegrassgreyhoundadoption.com), or Bluegrass Care Navigators (bgcarenav.org).

Arrangements are under the direction of Harrod Brothers Funeral Home.

Events

FEB **Visitation** 10:00AM - 01:00PM

1

Harrod Brothers Funeral Home

312 Washington Street, Frankfort, KY, US, 40601

FEB **Celebration of Life Services** 01:00PM

1

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312 Washington Street, Frankfort, KY, US, 40601

Comments



“ Mrs. Jenkins was a great teacher. She made music fun. She will be missed.
Madline Wash Markey

Madline W Markey - February 15, 2019 at 08:13 PM



“ Jo Ann and I taught together at Elkhorn in the sixties. We had such a good time every day and I do mean every day. She was such a good music teacher, a wonderful wife and mother and a forever friend. I know that she will be missed by hundreds of former students. She adored Melville and Robert Ashley and always put them first in her life. It was indeed a privilege to know her. Thank you, Robert, for being a wonderful son.

Alma Ashby - February 05, 2019 at 10:00 PM



“ Mrs. Jenkins was a role model of mine. She was always beautiful inside and outside. I enjoyed my time as her student at Old Elkhorn and FCHS. My favorite time with her was as her friend as an adult. We always shared memories and much, much laughter! She loved you Robert and enjoyed being a grandma to your special greyhound. I will miss her and never, ever forget her. Thank you, JoAnn for all the positives you brought to my life.

Jacquelyn Smith Rogers - February 01, 2019 at 03:15 PM



“ Robert, please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. Your mother was an incredible lady. She made music such fun and always encouraged those of us with not as much talent to believe in ourselves. She believed in us and taught us to be better singers and people! You were a devoted son and she loved you so! She also enjoyed getting to watch the dog! It is difficult to lose someone you love so much, but know that her memories will continue to live on through you. You will catch yourself saying something that she would have said or a special song will bring her to mind. May those memories be a joy to you and help you get through the days and years ahead. Much love to you, Gayla Winkler Young

Gayla Young - February 01, 2019 at 10:08 AM



“ David and I made a donation to the Bluegrass Greyhound Adoption in JoAnn's memory. She was a wonderful woman and will be missed dearly.

Kate Talley - February 01, 2019 at 09:01 AM



“ 75 files added to the album LifeTributes



Harrod Brothers Funeral Home - January 31, 2019 at 03:06 PM



“ Robert:
Your Mom was such a dear lady. Beyond working with your Mom and Dad at First Baptist, and after I left State Government and went to Scott County Schools, your Mom would pull me aside at Church and want to know what was going on in the schools and/or other local concerns. She kept getting the News-Graphic from Georgetown and would read about the local news. She actually knew more about the Scott County happenings, than I did.
She has gone to be with GOD and back with Melvin.
She will be missed by a bunch of your extended family.
But, I am sorry for Your Loss.

Fran & Michael Luscher

Michael Luscher - January 30, 2019 at 07:34 PM



“ Robert, I am so very sorry to hear of your loss. I know you loved her dearly, and it is apparent from all the comments that others did too. Just wanted to let you know you are in my thoughts during this difficult time.

Melissa McQueen - January 30, 2019 at 10:57 AM



“ I first met Mrs. Jenkins when she was teaching music class at Elkhorn Elementary out in the trailers and then in the small room off the cafeteria in the basement. Not glorious settings but she always made each class fun. Later, Mrs. Jenkins used to join Robert and me when tennis courts were wet and needed to be swept and dried in time for classes, leagues, and tournaments. Every time she was laughing and enjoying the moment.

Robert, I am so sorry to hear about your mom. Please know that she will forever have a place in my heart. May her memory always be a blessing.

Love,
Vickie



Vickie Dearing Volyn - January 30, 2019 at 10:37 AM



“ Very classy lady and great family friend. She was a wonderful choir director and she gave me a chance to sing my first solo. Her class was always fun times. She will surely be missed. Prayers!!

Londa Britton Mitchell - January 30, 2019 at 10:10 AM



“ This lady was awesome she loved macaroni and tomatoes and her beloved husband loved banana pudding so glad I got to know her when I worked in the cafeteria Sorry for your loss Robert

Nancy Day - January 30, 2019 at 09:00 AM



“ Walter Weitzel lit a candle in memory of Jo Ann Billings Jenkins



Walter Weitzel - January 30, 2019 at 08:57 AM



“ Mrs. Jenkins you are everything! The best human ever. You raised an awesome son in Robert! Robert take heart you were blessed with wonderful parents! May you light continue to shine until you meet again. Love you, thoughts and prayers for all. Cindy Greenwood Molhusen

Cindy Greenwood Molhusen - January 29, 2019 at 09:42 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of JoAnn's passing. I remember many conversations while working at LRC about the happenings in Georgetown, especially about the high school choir. She was always glad to sit and chat for a while and offer a hug. She will be missed.

Capella McFarland

Capella McFarland - January 29, 2019 at 08:45 PM



“ Oh, I loved this woman. She was one of the reasons that I loved high school. She helped me find a job when I was a teenager. She was a perfectionist as a chorus teacher. My memories of competition make me feel proud. Condolences to Robert. I remember how she always spoke with pride when talking about him.

Martha Travis Sandlin - January 29, 2019 at 07:57 PM



“ Loved Ms. Jenkins!! She had a way of getting the best out of everyone she had in chorus!! She will be forever missed!! I love you!!

Robin Mayes - January 29, 2019 at 07:42 PM



“ Many wonderful memories of a great music teacher and friend. Love and prayers for you, Robert. Hope to see you at the service. She was a great influence on many, many lives.

Mark Shepherd - January 29, 2019 at 07:17 PM



“ Ms. Jo Ann I will miss your smile, love and your outgoing personality. Whenever you came into Capital Pharmacy you would look for me so you could give me a hug. I will never forget the day Robert called and asked me to go check on you, and I found you on the porch where you had fallen. You scared me to death, but I knew I needed to stay calm to best assist you. I'm sure you and Mel are flying high in heaven together again. You will be missed more than you will ever know.



Rebecca Boggs - January 29, 2019 at 06:42 PM



“ Mrs. Jenkins was my music/choir teacher thru out grade school and even though I wasn't in chorus in high school, she was still a teacher that encouraged me. I can remember as a very young girl idolizing her. She was always impeccably dressed - the hair and makeup was perfect but she was never "overdone" as was the phrase back then. Her countenance was one of a professional educator and an elegant lady. She was one of the rare instructors who was strict but could laugh and have fun. She demanded the best of her students and you wanted to give that back to her because to me, disappointing her and doing something she wouldn't approve of would make me be disappointed in myself. I can still see her now directing us in the old gym at Old Elkhorn during assemblies or Christmas programs. Long after I graduated high school when i would see her she would remember me and frankly never seemed to age. I would always tell her she looked the same as she did when I was in elementary school. She always made me feel like I mattered, that I had worth and value beyond being one of her students. In other words she believed in me. When she corrected you or told you you weren't singing a phrase right or needed to do something differently she never did it in a humiliating manner or in a way that made you feel less than. She was such an encouragement to me. I adored her and I know her kind and loving spirit will be missed by her son, her family, her friends, and most of all the hundreds of students, like me, on whom she left an indelible mark.

Love you Mrs. Jenkins! May you rest in beautiful peace.

Jenny Arnold May

jenny may - January 29, 2019 at 06:23 PM



“ Best chorus/music teacher ever. Many fond memories of Mrs. Jenkins.



Kevin Newton - January 29, 2019 at 06:16 PM



“ Janice Jackson & Dash lit a candle in memory of Jo Ann Billings Jenkins



Janice Jackson & Dash - January 29, 2019 at 05:38 PM



“ Carrie Klaber lit a candle in memory of Jo Ann Billings Jenkins



Carrie Klaber - January 29, 2019 at 04:32 PM



“ Michael Ganesan lit a candle in memory of Jo Ann Billings Jenkins



Michael Ganesan - January 29, 2019 at 04:15 PM