



## Joan Irene Morton

July 8, 1930 - April 20, 2016

Joan Irene Morton passed away early on the morning of April 20, 2016, after a lengthy illness. She was born on July 8, 1930, in Canon City, CO, to Ivan and Gail (Hinrichs) Harrisberger. She is survived by her husband of nearly 66 years, Ben Morton of Houston; her three children, Bruce Morton of Austin, TX, Janet Davis (& Tommie) of Grimes County, TX, and Kimberly Rathbun (& Jim) of Wheaton, IL; and three grandchildren, Hannah, Caleb, and Abigail Rathbun. She is also survived by four Harrisberger brothers, Lee of Tampa, FL, Forrest of Hideaway, TX, Bill of Owasso, OK, and Tom of Houston; and one sister, Barbara Uptegraft of Edmond, OK.

Her early life was in Florence, CO, until 1936 when CONOCO transferred her father and family to Ponca City, OK, where she received her education through her high school years. She then attended Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa, OK, and graduated with an associate degree in business in 1950. While there she was selected as the football queen of the school's Mavericks. She met Ben while on summer employment in 1949 with the Cities Service Oil Co., and they were married on August 12, 1950, just before Ben was recalled to active Navy duty. After relatively short Navy duty in Japan/Korea, they were able to reunite and be together in California as well as Honolulu.

Civilian life commenced again in fall 1951, when they returned to Ponca City where Joan was employed in CONOCO's Personnel Division and Ben

was with Cities Service. The couple made their initial move to the Houston area in June 1955 when Ben began employment with what is now known as the ExxonMobil organization. Up to the present, this led to family residences in Bellaire, TX; Wyckoff, NJ; London, England; and finally to the west side of Houston.

Joan lived a full life as a wife, mother, homemaker, and volunteer. She was known as a good cook and avid seamstress who enjoyed travel, reading, tennis, piano, and involvement with church-related activities (including Bible study, a “Clown Ministry”, etc.). She also made time to be a den mother/troop leader for the Boy/Girl Scouts and to be an English-language tutor.

The family is grateful for the care given to her in her final days by the skilled nursing section of Parkway Place along with Buckner Hospice Services.

A memorial service to honor Joan will be held at 2:00PM on April 27, 2016, at Memorial Drive United Methodist Church, 12955 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77079. In lieu of flowers, you may wish to consider giving to a charity of your choice. Visit [www.DettlingFuneral.com](http://www.DettlingFuneral.com) to leave online tributes.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

APR **27**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Memorial Drive United Methodist Church  
12955 Memorial Drive  
Houston, TX  
<http://www.mdumc.org>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Joan Irene Morton*

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Joan Irene Morton*

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *Joan Irene Morton*

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *Joan Irene Morton*

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joan Irene Morton.*



April 26, 2016 at 02:18 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Detting Funeral Home** - April 25, 2016 at 06:51 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms* was purchased for the family of *Joan Irene Morton*.

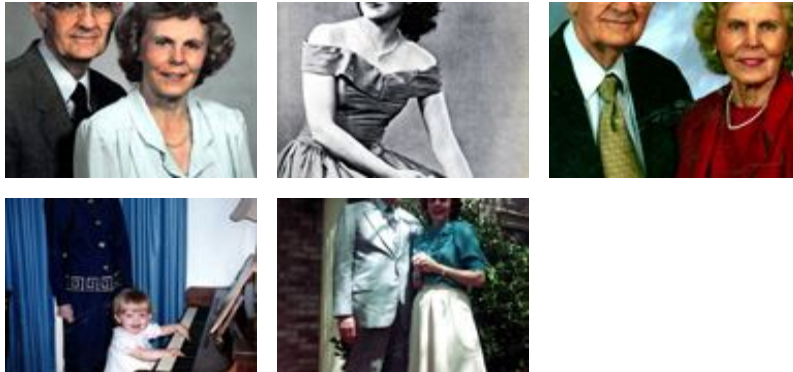


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April 25, 2016 at 02:38 PM



“ 55 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Detting Funeral Home** - April 25, 2016 at 12:04 PM

TD

“ Dear Ben,

*We are so sorry to hear of Joan's passing from this life. The two of you made a wonderful life together. We are so glad that we came by to see both of you last year when we were in Houston. We are grateful for all those years we have known you since the early days in Humble Oil & Refining Company. You'll remember the attached photo taken in Alaska in 1992 when we and Jean and Gene Ware were on a trip with you two - great memories. Know that you and your family are in our prayers.*

*Jean and Tom Dodson*

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**Tom Dodson** - April 25, 2016 at 09:30 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joan Irene Morton.*



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April 24, 2016 at 05:09 PM



“ 47 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Detting Funeral Home** - April 24, 2016 at 04:56 PM

GH

“ *Ben, I am so very sorry and you and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.*

*GladysHooker*

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**Gladys Hooker** - April 24, 2016 at 03:58 PM

RG

“ *Dear Ben and Family, I send you my deepest heart felt sympathy to you in this most difficult time. My thoughts and prayers are with you. May God Bless her and keep her..We will all miss her smiling face when she was delivering the Westchester RAP to our mail boxes.Ron Geer.*

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**Ron Geer** - April 24, 2016 at 02:46 PM