



## Joy Smith Davis

March 17, 1923 - April 10, 2012

Joy Smith Davis died peacefully in Houston on April 10 after many years of failing health. Born in Timpson, Texas on March 17, 1923, she was the fifth and youngest child of James Homer Smith and Pearl Smith.

Her early years were happy ones, spent in the warmth and love of her large family on their farm in East Texas. A beautiful and intelligent young woman, she excelled in academics, tennis and debate. After graduation, she moved with her parents to Houston where she worked and attended the University of Houston before transferring to the University of Texas. In Austin, she enjoyed her studies and made lifelong friends, some of whom she always cherished as the “Kirby Hall Group”. But the War had begun, and that handsome young Navy officer and Rice Graduate she had met in Houston had asked for her hand in marriage. In April of 1944, she boarded a train for New York City to marry John Benton “Jug” Davis, Jr., just a few months before he “shipped out” for the Philippines. Their loving marriage endured for over 53 years, until his death in 1997.

His career in the petroleum exploration and services business took them and their three children through many moves to many different locations in Texas, Nebraska, and Colorado, but Joy always rose to the challenge, supporting her husband and collecting friends and good memories all along the way. In 1959 they moved back to Houston – to Texas and to “home” – where they would spend the rest of their lives.

Joy and “Jug” were charter members of Memorial Drive United Methodist

Church, and over the years she served as Board President, Circle Leader, BridgeBuilders Sunday School Class President, and in many volunteer ministries there and elsewhere. She was a woman of deep Christian faith, and she lived it through her care and compassion for others.

Her life revolved around her family and her friends, and her love and concern for them. She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, and three siblings: Bess Smith, Dale Smith, and Marcelle Smith Cowart. Joy is survived by her children and their spouses: Jan Davis Pickle and Gary of Austin; James Benton Davis and Sharon of Houston; and John Kimsey Davis and Kathy, also of Houston; her grandchildren Joseph Benton Pickle (Dorie), Shane Tyson Davis (Brooke), Lorena Joy Pickle Allen (Jeremiah), and Eliot Grayson Davis; and seven great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her brother Robert Ray Smith and her sister-in-law, Marceil Smith, both of Houston, and nieces and nephews Edmund Cowart, Kathy Cowart Hall, Karen Smith, K Smith Leonard, Rob Smith, and their families.

Her family is grateful for the services of Houston Hospice, and for the loving care given our mother by her special angel caregivers.

After a private interment service, a memorial service and celebration of her life will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 14 at Memorial Drive United Methodist Church, 12955 Memorial Drive in Houston. A reception will follow in the Church's Friendship Court.

If desired, memorial gifts may be given to Houston Hospice or to the Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary in Houston.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

APR **14**. 11:00 AM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *Joy Smith Davis*

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Joy Smith Davis*

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *Joy Smith Davis*

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *Joy Smith Davis*

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM

CA

“ Dear Davis Family,  
I'm very sorry for the death that you've experienced in your family recently. There are some scriptures found in gods word, that have encouraged me in the past when it comes to losing one of our loved ones. John 11:25 says... "He that exercises faith in me, even though he dies, will come to life."  
I also agree with the bible when it says at Acts 24:15... That "there will be a resurrection, of both the righteous and unrighteous"! Revelation 21:4 states " Death will be no more." "The former things have passed away." What a wonderful time to live when these scriptures will be fulfilled!  
My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.. please know that I'm thinking of you and your family during this hardship.  
Thank you for your time,  
Sincerely,  
Chastity Aniol

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chastity aniol - April 21, 2012 at 06:44 AM

JD

“ Dear Jan,  
Mother and I send our deepest sympathy to you and your brothers, and to all of Joy's family. Joy was so dear to Mother throughout the years, and all of us loved her very much. How wonderful it is to think of her reunited with your dad. She spoke often of how proud she was of her family, and especially of her grandchildren. What a blessing she was to everyone she knew. All of you are in our prayers.  
Love,  
Jency Cook and Jency D'Armond

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Jency D'Armond - April 19, 2012 at 08:39 AM



“ *Written in the Stars was purchased for the family of Joy Smith Davis.* ”



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April 14, 2012 at 06:10 AM

HC

“ Dear Jan, John, Jim, and other family members, we send our loving sympathy to all of you. We have so many great memories of Joy and are heart broken that she had to struggle so many years to be reunited with Jug. We know how she loved and missed him. It must be a comfort to know how you lovingly cared for her all those years. Thank you for mentioning Kirby Hall in her obit. That was the beginning of a lifelong friendship for Hope since she knew Joy at the dorm and met Jug before they left for The Little Church Around The Corner. Can you imagine our surprise when we joined MDUMC in 1961 at Bendwood School and found the Davis family were already members? In just a few more years Hope had found several other dorm gals and soon the "Kirby Hall Group" was formed. All our kids were still rather young but we enjoyed many years of fun, food and friendship. As the kids grew up the ladies joined in Teas, Showers, Rice-bag Parties and we all enjoyed weddings along the way and the "Kirby Hall Group" continued to meet. We were all at our home the night before Jug passed away. Another heart breaker for all of us. As a Group we shared so many happy times and also hard times. Joy was always such a special lady on all occasions. She touched so many lives as she "traveled her road of life" All who knew her were better off for that relationship. We loved her so much and will always miss her as we know all of you will. God bless each of you and may He hold you close in your time of healing. Hope & Ed

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Hope & Ed Causey - April 12, 2012 at 08:49 PM

LH

“ Dear Jan, Gary and Family,  
We were so saddened to hear of your Mother's passing. Joy was a wonderful person and lived a long life. It was a privilege knowing Joy. We send our love and heartfelt condolences to each of you and the entire family.

Love,  
Laura, Paul, Amy, Lindsay and Marissa

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**Laura R. Hyman** - April 12, 2012 at 08:02 PM

MR

“ It has been one of life's great privileges to know Joy. She was at MDUMC when I joined and we enjoyed worshiping and working together in many areas, including Women's Society and Bridgebuilders. My life was enriched knowing her and heaven is enriched by her entering! Margaret Ann Reed

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**Margaret Ann Reed** - April 12, 2012 at 07:38 PM