

Jo Ann Andersen Cummings

May 16, 1938 ~ October 31, 2021

Our beautiful and beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, Jo Ann Andersen Cummings passed away at home on October 31, 2021 surrounded by her adoring family.

Jo Ann was born May 16, 1938 in Salt Lake City, Utah to her devoted parents, Mildred Lucile Hansen and Daniel Lundgreen Andersen. She is the fourth of five children and always enjoyed a close and loving relationship with all of her siblings. Family is the most important thing to Jo Ann. Whether in a quiet conversation at home or at a family reunion with her 105 first cousins, she cherished her family ties. She was proud of her Danish heritage in her Hansen and Andersen families and she loved her Cummings relatives.

She attended Washington Elementary, Horace Mann Jr. High, West High School, and the University of Utah, where she received a bachelor's degree in Education.

On August 16, 1962, Jo Ann married Robert Campbell Cummings, the love of her life, in the Manti Temple. They enjoyed a wonderfully happy marriage of 59 years. Their relationship has been a model of respect, love, and friendship that blessed their four children, Matt, Mike, Jenny, and Lizzy, with a loving, stable, and fun home to grow up in. There is not a more dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother than Jo Ann. Family is her greatest joy and her number one priority.

Jo Ann's work ethic started early with her first job at AAA at age 14 where she refined her exceptional secretarial skills. A gifted teacher, she taught 3rd Grade at Canyon Rim Elementary where she influenced many children and developed her love and knowledge of children's literature. She had a wonderful ability to make learning fun.

Jo Ann traveled widely, from Europe to Israel to Hawaii. She especially loved visiting Paris, and Denmark, the beloved home of her ancestors. While in Germany visiting her brother Dan Wayne and family, she was called to serve a mini-mission, serving as the Secretary to the President of the German Mission. She thoroughly enjoyed this special opportunity to serve the Lord and support the work in the mission home. Closer to home, her favorite escapes were Bear Lake and the family cabin where she loved spending time with family away from the distractions of daily life.

Jo Ann was a masterful pianist who could play nearly anything. She especially enjoyed accompanying others, which she did hundreds of times over the years. Her family will miss listening to her play everything from Rachmaninoff to show tunes.

Service was a hallmark of Jo Ann's life. She served on the Executive Board of the Festival of Trees for over 40 years where she led as a Co-Chair for a number of years and as the head of many departments. During that time, she donated over 3000 of her famous homemade pecan logs. We will miss those delicacies! She loved helping children and truly lived by the Primary Children's Hospital motto: The Child First and Always. Jo Ann adored her Festival friends and cherished the memories she made with them. Jo Ann also served as PTA president at Ensign Elementary for many years and volunteered frequently at Ensign, Bryant, East, and West.

Jo Ann was blessed with the best of friends who brought her so much joy. She treasured her relationships with her high school friends, bowling friends, Literary friends, book club friends, church friends, dinner group friends, Festival friends, and friends from many other parts of her life. They were all important to her.

Jo Ann was always the last to leave any gathering, savoring every last moment. She didn't seek out attention but her magnetic personality made her the life of every party. Her quick and dry wit kept us laughing constantly, as she could find humor in almost anything and never took herself too seriously. Making others feel included came easy to her because she saw the value in everyone.

A devoted member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Jo Ann lived and loved the gospel fully and delighted in seeing her children and grandchildren stand strong in the faith. She was proud of her pioneer heritage and never wavered in her testimony. She faithfully served in many ward and stake callings including as President of the Relief Society, Primary, Stake Young Women, and her favorite, as Primary Chorister.

Her husband and children will lovingly remember her unconditional love, unforgettable holidays, and heart-to-heart talks at all hours. A talented homemaker and legendary cook, no one will ever make better mashed potatoes or baklava.

Her grandchildren couldn't adore her more. She was their biggest fan, making each one feel uniquely loved. She relished each recital, graduation, and visit. She loved giving personalized gifts to celebrate their special moments and she was always ready to play a game. They will miss their beloved G-ma more than words can say!

Jo Ann is survived by her husband; four children, Matthew Robert (SueEllen Kesler), Michael Daniel (Emily Wilcox), Jennifer Ann, and Elizabeth Jo; grandchildren, Jack, Elle, Ellie (Jeff), Audrey, Anina, Greta, Rebekah, Cole, Clara, James, Maxwell, Charles, and Nicholas; two brothers, Ronald Andersen and Craig Andersen (Rusty); sisters-in-law, Julie Cummings, Angela Cummings, Gloria Andersen; and many nieces, and nephews.

Jo Ann is preceded in death by her parents; her sister, Coralee LeCheminant; brother, Dan Wayne Andersen; sisters-in-law, Lina Andersen, Sabra Andersen, Joan Andersen, Joy Andersen; and brothers-in-law, Stan LeCheminant, Richard Cummings, and Bruce Cummings.

Funeral services will be held on Monday, November 8, 2021 at 12:00 PM at the LDS Chapel located at 680 2nd Ave, Salt Lake City, UT 84013. Family and friends may visit with the family from 10:30 - 11:30am at the ward building prior to Monday's funeral service, or on Sunday evening, November 7th, 2021 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at Larkin Mortuary, 260 E South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84111.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Primary Children's Hospital or Festival of Trees.

Recorded graveside services can be view here
https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/RVOos5iU3qHU_1MnMHyNHuvqA0iXJSbdLK489ALHE_3sPxEsLi2LWxRrz-WGwBh1