

Joy Smith Peterson

July 5, 1927 ~ April 20, 2023

Joy Smith Peterson, 95, passed away at her South Jordan Utah home on April 20, 2023. She was born in Salt Lake City on July 5, 1927 to Vera Leggett and Paul Roberts Smith. She was raised in Centerville, Utah until she was high school age when she moved to Salt Lake City with her mother. She continued to commute to Davis High School where she graduated in 1945. She then attended the University of Utah where she met her sweetheart William (Bill) David Peterson. They were married on September 18, 1947.

Joy and her husband Bill settled in Price, Utah where they began to raise a family. She joined the faculty at the College of Eastern Utah in 1961, teaching physical education and dance. She pioneered the women's athletic program at CEU and began to establish and coach competitive intercollegiate teams in five sports. She was the women's athletic director and continued to teach a full-time schedule. During her time at CEU she also directed the women's precision drill team, the "Blue Debs", and the cheerleaders. She also founded the dance company "PEDS". In addition to all that, she held leadership positions in regional and national athletic organizations. She retired from CEU in 1987. She touched thousands of individuals. She said, "I loved teaching on the college level. I believe there is no greater accomplishment than being able to teach a person new skills, encouraging them to make good use of their talents and making them aware of the excitement to be found in dance, sports, and physical fitness".

Joy was also involved in the community, including being the choreographer and dance director for many community musical productions. Later she volunteered to help in the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. She was assigned to be the handler for one of the mascots, the bear named "Coal". Family was always first with Joy and she supported all of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren's athletic and dance endeavors. Joy loved to travel with family and friends. Her journeys took her to Europe, China, South America, Mexico, Canada and throughout the United States.

A life-long member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, she served as a missionary guide in the Salt Lake Conference Center for eight years. She especially enjoyed her time there until health prevented her from continuing.

Joy's family would like to express their love and appreciation to her Sagewood family for their tender loving care over the past several months.

Joy was preceded in death by her husband William in 1995. She is survived by her children Shawnda (Duane) Bishop, David (Connie) Peterson, and Sherrie (Maurice) Brown. She is also survived by 12 grandchildren, and 27 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, April 27, at 11 am in the Grandville Chapel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 11677 South Grandville Ave., South Jordan, Utah 84009. Friends may call at the Grandville Chapel on Wednesday evening between 6-8 pm, and again Thursday prior to services beginning at 9:30 am. Interment will be in the Huntsville Utah Cemetery at approximately 2:30 pm. It will be preceded by a brief graveside service.

Funeral services will be streamed via Zoom for those wishing to attend virtually. To watch the previously held streamed funeral services, please click the "Watch Services" link above.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to one of the following:

American Diabetes Association at https://diabetes.org

National Multiple Sclerosis Society at https://nationalmssociety.org

Lupus Foundation of America at https://lupus.org