

Joyce B Harper

July 8, 1929 ~ July 15, 2022

Joyce B Harper, born July 8, 1929, to J Earl, and Stella Marie Bolton, passed away peacefully amongst family and friends on July 15, 2022, one week following her 93rd birthday.

Joyce grew up in Sugarhouse alongside her siblings Sherman, Bernice, and Doug. She graduated from South High school and was thought by classmates and teachers to be a "swell gal."

Joyce married Ross Spence Harper in 1947. They celebrated 64 years together until Ross passed in 2011.

Joyce is survived by sons Ross Craig (Chris), Jesse Paul (Susan), and Bradford J, along with 9 grandchildren and 13+ great-grandchildren.

After supporting and raising her boys in school, little league, and scouts, Joyce was hired by Grand Central, working the camera and fishing bar. Extra income afforded Joyce and Ross a new truck, camper, and boat. Joyce truly enjoyed fishing every hole in Utah and Wyoming and she knew ALL the tricks! She was "the red-headed, spicy, screaming, professional fisherwoman" and she loved her reputation. Joyce had no problem telling you the "way it is" and we loved her for it.

They bought property in Manila and enjoyed fishing, building up their second home, entertaining family & friends, and enjoying life to its fullest.

Joyce's cooking was that of a culinary master chef. She was famous for making meals of any cuisine. She could do it all! Joyce and Ross also loved many cats through the years.

Joyce was a Utah Jazz fan, always loving to watch, talk the talk, and telling whoever listened what they needed to do to be better! She was thrilled to attend an occasional game in person.

In February 2020 Joyce was diagnosed with Dementia. In December, during winter snows and rampant Covid, Joyce agreed to "snowbird" in a warmer climate and flew to Phoenix, Arizona to visit Craig and Chris. She enjoyed walks, bird watching, golf ball hunting out by the course, planting potted flowers, and caring for them, and gourmet food daily. She played puzzles, watched Jeopardy, Family Feud, Bold and the Beautiful, golf, and lots of Jazz games. She enjoyed coffee and cocktails daily in a "safe loving environment." It had its challenges, but Dementia and times in Covid are not always fun. She was losing so much, her independence, control, dignity, and her mind.

In early Summer, Joyce returned to Salt Lake and resided at The Ridge Cottonwood a senior living community in Holladay, Utah. In the beginning of her 13-month residency, she was confused and lost, but almost immediately stated. "If you need to be someplace like this...this is the place to be". She quickly adjusted and made it her home, enjoying many activities and friends!

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Joyce Harper, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and friend. She will forever be remembered for the beautiful spirit she had! She truly lived for all her 93 years.

Thank you and forever grateful:
East Vine Street Gal Pals
Cathy Cooper
The Ridge Cottonwood
Utah Health Care and Hospice
National and Utah Alzheimer's Association and Crisis Line
Christina Harper

Funeral Services will be held on July 19, 2022, at 11:00 am at Larkin Sunset Gardens, 1950 East Dimple Dell Road (10600 South). Viewings are on Monday, July 18, 2022, from the hours of 6:00 – 8:00 pm and Tuesday prior to the funeral from 10:00 – 1045 am. Interment to follow at Larkin Sunset Gardens Cemetery.