Joyce Marie Taylor

February 8, 1931 ~ May 13, 2023

Joyce Marie Taylor (Crow) passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 13th, 2023. She was 92 years old.

Joyce was born on February 8th, 1931, the firstborn daughter to Joseph and Lillie Mable Crow. She endured the addition of three brothers before welcoming a baby sister, making her the eldest of five. Joyce devoted herself to the role of big sister, helping her mother while her father navigated three jobs to support the family, including a job at Alta Ski Resort allowing him to ski with Joyce every Thursday. However, she wasn't above a little revenge, often chasing her brother around with the vacuum as payment for cutting up her paper dolls.

Eventually, the family settled in a small bungalow on Ramona Avenue outside of Salt Lake City, Utah, a vacant lot separating her home from that of the handsome young man living a block north who often took the shared alleyway as a shortcut. The family dog wasn't too fond of Lee Taylor, but Joyce took a keen interest, often sharing long talks on the back porch and Snellies and milkshakes at the local ice cream parlor. The two would fall in love and, after Joyce graduated from South High School, would marry in the summer of 1949 in the Idaho Falls Temple, beginning an eternal companionship that would last 74 years.

The couple began their life together "sitting on apple crates" but would soon grow their family into a loving and comfortable home. Joyce welcomed her first son, Paul, in 1952. Joylee would follow in 1956, and David would complete the family in 1962. Joyce raised the children while supporting her husband as he worked all over the country from Minnesota to Missouri, describing the former as a "frozen Hell". After nearly losing her youngest son to deadly meningitis, Joyce demanded the family return home, and they built their house in Salt Lake City in 1966.

Joyce was a devoted and detailed homemaker. Whatever she set her mind to, she did with perfection. She excelled at cooking, baking, and candy-making. She won the grand prize for knitting at the Utah State Fair on multiple occasions and also availed herself of sewing and embroidery, making everything from her daughter's wedding dress to a calendar that often had a few numbers rearranged after a visit from the grandchildren. When weather permitted, Joyce was often out working by her husband's side in their yard. She would load up thousands of annuals to plant every year into the back of her 1984 Oldsmobile Custom Cruiser, a vehicle she chose over a Corvette because "it holds all the flowers." Joyce was also incredibly gifted with music. She studied piano and, in 1973, was given a beautiful organ from her husband. She quickly expanded her musical talents, studying under Robert Cundick and Clay Christiansen, and blessed her local ward with Bach, Handel, and other beautiful sacred music for decades. As her children grew up, Joyce and Lee enjoyed traveling the world, experiencing Italy, Russia, Greece, Canada, and New Zealand. They also enjoyed wintering in St. George, Utah, where Joyce would meticulously work on puzzles and knitting.

Overarching all of this was Joyce’s incomparable love for her family. In 1955, she lost two of her brothers and father in a tragic boating accident. In 1979, Joyce helplessly watched her daughter lose a devastating battle with cancer. She buried her mother, her sister, her remaining brother, and, in 2018, she laid her oldest son to rest saying, “I was here at the beginning, and I will be here until the end.” She was a woman
painfully acquainted with grief. Yet, she transformed it into pure love, emanating nothing but unconditional pride in her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She walked side-by-side with her husband, building a bedrock, unbreakable, and inspiring marriage. She was at every event, every family dinner no matter how insignificant, and ensured the Christmas gifts were wrapped in the obligatory chocolate boxes. She established and maintained the standard that this family stays together. She maintains that standard from beyond the veil.

Joyce is preceded in death by her father, Joseph; mother, Lillie Mabel; brothers, Glen, Ernest, and Robert; sister, Diane; son, Paul; and daughter, Joylee. She is survived by her loving husband, Lee; her son David (Marie); her grandchildren, Paul Jr. (Mandy), Alisa, Christopher (Kia), Steven (Lynae), Emilee (Scott); and her great-grandchildren, Paisley, Charlie, Emma, Charlotte, and Grayson.

A viewing will be held on Friday, May 19th, 2023, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM at the East Millcreek 9th Ward (3750 S Hillside Lane Salt Lake City, 84109). A graveside service will follow at noon at Wasatch Lawn Cemetery (3401 S Highland Drive Millcreek, 84106). The family wishes to thank all of those who have assisted in care and support for Joyce and her family during this time.