

Marilyn Johnson Rolapp Brinton

March 23, 1941 ~ January 13, 2023

Marilyn Johnson Rolapp Brinton passed away peacefully on Friday, January 13, 2023, at age 81. Born in Redlands, CA to Ljubica (Ruby) Vukovich Johnson and Layle George Johnson, she was the older of two children. She and her brother, Barry Johnson, were raised in Las Vegas, Nevada where she graduated in 1959 from Las Vegas High School. She was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in English with a minor in History and Education in 1963 by Brigham Young University, where she was Homecoming Queen her senior year. At BYU she met Ralph Richards Rolapp, known as Rich. She and Rich were married in 1963 in the Los Angeles Temple and lived in Washington D.C. for 25 years where they raised four children, Todd, Juliane, Brian and Ashley. After Rich's passing, she married Robert L. Brinton in 1994. She and Bob moved to Salt Lake City ten years after in 2004, enjoying a 28 year loving companionship in every way.

Marilyn had a brilliant mind and whatever she took on she did it well. She worked for years as a substitute teacher in Montgomery County, Maryland, and for eight years at Christ Episcopal School in Rockville, Maryland. Her volunteer work often revolved around her children and included serving many years as PTA president and even as the mascot at her son's senior year homecoming football game. She was a devoted member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served admirably everywhere she lived in just about every available capacity. She especially loved her last calling as a primary teacher in the Federal Heights Ward.

She loved many things: baking bread, gardenias, hamburgers, chocolate of all kinds, plays of every kind, long walks, music from the 50's and 60's, the symphony, Masterpiece Theatre, and coconut cream pie. She was always learning new things. She especially loved to read and write. She read everything from classic literature to murder mysteries and typically had two or three books going simultaneously. She wrote that reading didn't just make her smarter, it made her and helped her understand others and develop empathy. In Salt Lake City, she took a writing class with Emma Lou Thayne at the University of Utah, inspiring her to form a writing group (the "Memory Keepers") which has been together for over 10 years now. During those years, she wrote prolifically, mostly short stories and always about her experiences in life.

Marilyn's greatest passion was people, especially family and friends. People were always drawn to her and her elegance, smile, infectious laugh and inviting manner. She had the gift of friendship. She had friends of all ages and from all walks of life and could maintain a friendship even after it lost the benefit of proximity. She would honor her friends private concerns, share their frustrations, help carry their burdens, listen to their ponderings, and find as much joy as they did in their celebrations. To her, friendship was the security of knowing you could say anything and be understood and loved.

As a mother, wife, grandmother, sister, and daughter, she was a giant. She poured her time, energy and emotions into loving her husband, children and grandchildren, whether serving them or just enjoying their company and lives. She spent countless summers before cell phones driving with all her children across the country, stopping to see her family along the way, and seeing some amazing and not-so amazing things. She cared attentively and generously for years for her parents as their health failed. Her grandchildren loved visiting her (especially on their own without their parents) and often brought friends. Her drive to learn new things came in part by a motivation to be close to her grandchildren. She believed that while they couldn't know what old age felt like, she could always remember what it was like to be young. Her steadfastness gave her loved ones confidence and security. As a member of her family, you could trust your whole self to her, knowing she would gently and generously sift away the rough parts and see the best of you.

She is survived by her husband, Robert L. Brinton; her four children, Todd Johnson Rolapp (Heather), Juliane Rolapp Huguely (Geoff), Brian Johnson Rolapp (Cindy), and Ashley Rolapp Garff (Brian); Bob's three children, Chris Brinton (Kinde), Matt Brinton (Wendy) and David Brinton (Leisa); and her brother Barry Johnson (Joyce). She is also survived by her 13 grandchildren and Bob's 10 grandchildren who range in age from 2 to 28 years and knew her as "Baba" – the Serbian word for grandmother.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, January 21, 2023 at 1:00 pm at the Federal Heights Ward, located at 1300 E Fairfax, SLC, UT 84103. A viewing will be held at the Federal Heights Ward on Friday, January 20, 2023 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm and on Saturday, January 21, 2023 from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm prior to the funeral services. Interment will immediately follow the Saturday funeral service at Larkin Sunset Lawn Cemetery at 2350 East 1300 South SLC, UT 84108. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Other Side Academy (theothersideacademy.com).

Recording of the funeral service can be found by clicking the "Watch Services" button above.