



JoAnn Costa

June 16, 1938 - February 26, 2025

JoAnn Costa, born on June 16, 1938, passed away on February 26th. She was surrounded by her family during her last hours as they prayed over her, and joyfully laughed as they shared memories of their life with her.

She was born a country girl with a city spirit. She was the middle child of 3 born to AE (everybody called him Joe) and Elmus Johnson. Growing up in Brighton, located just outside of Bessemer, Alabama, she left high school at age 16. She worked her whole life in a man's world as a first of her kind lady forklift driver, expertly lifting and moving tons of tin plate at Continental Can Company. She never shied away from hard work; continued to compete successfully with her male counterparts over the whole course of her career, even as her health began to decline later in her life. Hard work was a source of pride for her.

She lived her life the best way she knew how, loved and cared for her family as only she could. Her love for her sister knew no bounds, even sharing the care of her sister with others when her own health care issues began to demand the need for her own personal care. Her last act, moments before she experienced a devastating stroke, was helping her sister, Helen, with her meal.

Preceding her in joining the Lord were her parents Alvin Elbert and Elmus Turner Johnson, and her brother Jerry Lynn Johnson. JoAnn is survived by her sister Helen Fay Adkins; daughters Beverly Niemzak (Michael), Shari Bledsoe (David), and Sammie Jo Stamps; grandchildren Trey Blythe, Mallory Johnson (Brett), Anthony Niemzak, Wesley Ransom (Angela); her niece (like a daughter to her) Angel Houston (Greg); great grandchildren Curren Birch Johnson, Amelie Ransom, Cameron Ransom, Bradley Cain Blyth; grand-nephews Chad Houston and Taylor Houston.

Following her wishes, there will not be a funeral service. Joann would hope that everyone who wishes to celebrate her life would do so with an unexpected and unsolicited act of kindness. She loved all fur babies even if they didn't belong to her. As a family, we all can attest to her caring for stray cats in her neighborhood, including her neighbor's heartfelt show of appreciation (a-hem). The family suggests that, should you wish to, make a donation to Compassion Ranch, a non-profit with a soul for caring for animals. You can find their website at compassionranch.org.

JoAnn would want everyone to know that all is well with her soul. She abides with her Heavenly Father, loved and comforted. Thank you to everyone who cared for her in her last hours; Brookwood Medical Center, especially all involved in palliative care, and Gentiva Hospice. And for Alena, whose rapid response and care for JoAnn at the moment of her stroke, we are grateful.