



Billie Jean Loftis

February 18, 1929 - October 28, 2020

Billie Jean Loftis was born in Houston, Texas on February 18, 1929 to Clarence J. Johnson, Sr. and Fannie Bell Powell Johnson. She passed away peacefully on the morning of October 28, 2020 at the age of 91. She was the youngest of 6 children and was the incredibly spoiled baby of the family. Her family soon moved to Austin where she remained for the rest of her life. Billie attended Maplewood Elementary, Fulmore Junior High, and Austin High School. At Austin High, she enjoyed singing in the Girls' Choir and graduated in 1947. Following her graduation, she attended Durham's Business School.

Billie met the love of her life, Harold at First Street Christian Church. According to Harold, he saw her sitting in the church choir and knew that she was the one! They waited until Billie turned 21 and 4 days after her birthday, they married. They were married for 66 wonderful years.

Billie worked at Camp Mabry at the Armory Board for several years until she felt the pull to stay home with her children. She made a wonderful home and in addition to her regular homemaking, she sewed most of Kathy's clothes; including twirling uniforms and served as a Girl Scout Leader for many years. She spent hours helping her children with schoolwork and projects and loved to attend programs, games and contests which was later carried on to her grandchildren's activities. She loved all holidays and made sure that each was celebrated with style. In addition to sewing, she loved crafting and floral arranging and she had a great eye for detail. When you walked into her home, you were drawn into the holiday themes and decorations. With the purchase of a pool table, a ping pong table, and a Coke machine, the Loftis home became a popular Friday night hang out for Billie's children, their friends and many neighborhood kids. The ice-cold bottled Coca Colas and homemade ice cream were a hit with everyone. She loved hosting these get-togethers and Billie has enjoyed keeping up with "the kids" over the years. Many have called or stopped by to visit and catch up with her.

Billie was a long-time member of Koenig Lane Christian Church where she taught Sunday School, attended Circle Meetings, helped with many Mother/Daughter Banquets and

Fellowship Suppers. She and Harold helped to establish the History Room at KLCC and were proud to preserve its history. She loved Sundays as she was able to see her children and grandchildren, her brother-in-law and sister-in-law, and many friends.

In 1974, Billie was asked to come to work at the National Guard Association of Texas for 30 days to help kick off a new insurance program. She ended up staying and became the Director of Insurance. Later, she employed her daughter as her file clerk. They worked side by side for 5 years before Billie retired. After her retirement, she and Harold enjoyed traveling around the United States. On the trips, she enjoyed shopping and Harold videoed and preserved their memories to enjoy for years to come.

Billie loved the Longhorns, so much so, that in the late 60's, she purchased orange and white furniture for the den and hung the iconic picture of the #1 UT Tower that celebrated the 1969 National Football Title. Nothing made her prouder than having her children graduate from the University of Texas. Later, her den became a focal point for her grandchildren's graduation pictures. She was very quick to brag that all 5 grandchildren were college graduates!

In the 1980's, Billie and Harold were gifted 2 Snow Village houses for Christmas. Her love of holidays, crafts, and collecting led them to a wonderful new hobby. They started collecting Department 56 houses and creating Snow Village displays throughout their home. It started small and soon snowballed into an amazing twinkling Christmas wonderland throughout their home. Harold provided the layouts which included Lionel trains and electronics with Billie supplying the details that brought the villages to life. The pool table was now used as a platform for a room full of holiday magic. Villages could be found all throughout the house and filled the living room, bookcases, on beds and even in a bathtub! The Austin American Statesman featured Billie and Harold and referred to them as the "Village People". Along with their displays, they helped form the "Hill Country 56er's Club" for local collectors of Dept 56 Villages and were written up in the Dept 56 collectors' magazines. One of the features was their village which incorporated a drive-in theater that played "White Christmas" on the screen as well as an artist painted wall that served as a backdrop for the village. The villages now brought in many guests to holiday parties for club members, family, and friends.

With the coming of grandchildren, Billie became Nanny. She was tiny, but mighty and loved her family dearly. She loved gift giving and didn't stop at one. Christmas was a celebration and just like her villages, she was in to all the details, she loved filling her home with gifts for her loved ones and was delighted to see the joy in all of their faces when opening the presents that she had handpicked for each one. As her family grew, the

time it took to open presents just became longer as she was not about to decrease any of the presents. She was a sweet, funny and loving Mother and Grandmother and will be missed by all.

Billie was preceded in death by her adoring husband of 66 years, Harold; her parents, her brothers- Clarence Jr. and Lewis and sisters- Bernice, Dotsie and Ardie Bell.

She is survived by her daughter, Kathy and husband, Les Gallatin; her son, Dennis and wife, Cindy Loftis; her grandson, Marshall and wife, Christie Gallatin, and step great grandson, Ryan; her grandson, John and wife, Diana Loftis and great granddaughter Joana; her grandson Russell and wife, Lea Gallatin and their two daughters; her grandson Christopher, and wife Erika Loftis and great grandkids, Olivia and Finn; her granddaughter, Rebecca Loftis and fiancé' Tim Giese. She is also survived by her brother-in-law, James and wife Patsy Loftis; her sister-in-law, Nancy Kay Smith and many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to say a special thank you to many caregivers who have taken care of Mother for the last seven years so that she could stay in her home, Mark, Diana, Rachel, Karen, Lou, Ginger, and Hannah, to name a few. Extra special thanks goes to Nancy Williams who took such good care of Mother for many of those years...baking her cookies every Sunday, making her drink all of her water, showing her pictures of her goats, taking her to family functions and making Mom laugh.

Services to be held November 2, 2020 beginning with a private family viewing. A graveside service will to be held at 4:00 pm with Dr. Jim Lewis of Koenig Lane Christian Church officiating, at the Cook-Walden Capital Parks Cemetery in Pflugerville.

Arrangements are under the direction and personal care of Austin Natural Funerals.

Events

NOV **Graveside Service**04:00PM

2

Capital Parks Cemetery

TX, US

Comments



“ I am going to miss Billie. I know that I only spent a few years of her 91 with her. I really did enjoy getting to know her and spend time with her. I thank the family for letting me help with her care.



Nancy Williams - November 04, 2020 at 09:48 PM



“ I will always remember Billie with warm memories. I was her caretaker for quite some time and enjoyed our talks together hearing about her stories of her family and friends. Watching her shows she loved or sitting outside seeing the birds come to the many birdfeeders she had. She had a love for people and always looked forward to all of us coming to help her out and enjoy our company with her. I will miss Billie but I will always remember her with wonderful memories, she felt like family to me. I will miss her dearly.

Karen Roberts - November 03, 2020 at 05:10 AM



“ We are very sorry for your loss! We are sending you all virtual hugs!
Tracy, David, and Mackenzie Brown

Browns - November 02, 2020 at 01:07 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Austin Natural Funerals - November 02, 2020 at 12:55 PM



“ William B. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Billie Jean Loftis.



William B. - November 01, 2020 at 02:38 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Kathleen Gallatin - October 31, 2020 at 11:19 PM



“ Billie and Harold walking down Congress Avenue and on their Wedding Day, February 22, 1950

Kathleen Gallatin - October 31, 2020 at 11:20 PM



“ How beautiful!

Amy W - November 16, 2020 at 01:57 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Kathleen Gallatin - October 31, 2020 at 10:32 PM



“ On their 60th Wedding Anniversary, February 2010.

Kathleen Gallatin - October 31, 2020 at 10:33 PM



“ So sorry for the loss of your mother. Thoughts and prayers for all of you. Kathy, you were your mom's mini me.

linda Kellam - November 03, 2020 at 12:11 AM



“ What a neat memory. :)

Amy W - November 16, 2020 at 01:59 PM



“ 15 files added to the album Memories Album



Austin Natural Funerals - October 31, 2020 at 08:50 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Austin Natural Funerals - October 31, 2020 at 06:57 PM



“ Billie loved watching the University of Texas Longhorns play football

Kathleen Gallatin - October 31, 2020 at 11:23 PM