



Joycelyn Smith Henderson

December 14, 1921 - December 7, 2023

Joycelyn Smith Henderson passed away peacefully in Horseshoe Bay, Texas on December 7, 2023. She was born in Brisbane, Australia on December 14, 1921 to James Smith and Clara McGee Smith, the fourth of five children. In 1942, she met her husband, Staff Sergeant Paul Henderson who was stationed with General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters in Brisbane. Subsequently, they were married on July 4, 1944 and celebrated over 50 years of marriage together. Joyce was welcomed to El Campo by Paul's family in early 1945 and immediately fell in love with them and his family with her. Paul returned to El Campo in June of 1945 from his military service and they established their home in El Campo.

Paul and Joyce were blessed with four children -- Patricia, Mark, Bruce and Paula.

Joyce was a devoted wife, mother to four, grandmother to 10 and great grandmother to 14 children, as well as a mentor to numerous people in the El Campo community.

Joyce had a servant heart, and the City of El Campo witnessed her love and passion for the community she called home. Faith, family, friends and community were her highest priorities.

Dedicated to her faith, Joyce held numerous positions in the First Methodist Church serving as Sunday school teacher, Director of Christian Education, Board Chair & Lay Leader. In the early 1970s, she worked with others to create the Methodist Child Care Center providing loving child care for working mothers. In the early days of the Child Care Center when money was tight, Joyce was often making soup and sandwiches to provide healthy meals for the children.

When her daughters became involved in Girl Scouts, Joyce became a troop leader and chairman of the cookie sales. Other civic involvement included working with others to open the first Head Start program in El Campo, working on the Parks and Recreation board as Chair to open Friendship Park, serving on El Campo Hospital Board from 1975-2008, El Campo Medical Foundation Board from 1974 -2010 as grant writer and fundraiser.

Joyce was known for her excellent cooking. She enjoyed singing in the choir, shopping with her daughters and traveling. She returned to her homeland 8 times in her long life.

Joyce was recognized in 1973 as the El Campo Citizen of the Year and in 2004 she was given the Americanism Award by the DAR for her contributions to aid others in obtaining their United States citizenship.

Joyce recognized the needs of others and was always compassionate and quick to lend an ear and come to the aid of family, friends and neighbors.

Preceding her in death are her loving husband, Paul, her brother, Ron Smith, sisters, Mavis Linton-Smith, and Alice Morris, father-in law, Jess Henderson, mother-in-law, Maude Henderson, sister-in law, Helen Naiser, & brother-in-law, John Calvin Henderson.

Surviving her are her sister Thelma of Brisbane Australia, her four children, Patricia Kittredge & husband Robert of Fort Worth, son Mark Henderson and wife Kathleen of Prescott, Arizona, Bruce Henderson and wife Maureen of Scottsdale, Arizona, & Paula Wendel & husband Tommy of Horseshoe Bay , 10 grandchildren, Juliet Morgan, Jennifer Kamacioglu (Murat), Jess Henderson, Clay Ellwood, Ross Henderson (Nichole), Lauren Burnett (Steve), Matthew Henderson (Griselda), Justin Wendel (Jennifer), Jake Henderson (Lindsay), Tara Buntin (Scott), 14 great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews in the United States and Australia.

Family will receive friends from 4-6 p.m. Monday, December 11, 2023 at Triska Funeral Home. Funeral services will begin at 11 a.m. Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at First United Methodist Church in El Campo with Rev. Ellen Ely officiating. The private family graveside service will precede the Church service.

Memorial donations in memory of Joyce Henderson may be made to the Methodist Child Care Center or the El Campo Medical Foundation.

Triska Funeral Home, El Campo, 979-543-3681

Previous Events

Family Will Receive Visitors

DEC 11. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Triska Funeral Home
612 Merchant Street
El Campo, TX 77437-3440
(979) 543-3681
triskafh@sbcglobal.net

Funeral Service

DEC 12. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Methodist Church
1001 Avenue I
El Campo, TX 77437

Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joycelyn Smith Henderson.* ”



December 10, 2023 at 11:03 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Joycelyn Smith Henderson.* ”



December 10, 2023 at 08:27 PM



“ *One of the nicest ladies I have had the pleasure of knowing.* ”



Martin Strarup - December 09, 2023 at 10:20 PM



“ *Cindy Riha lit a candle in memory of Joycelyn Smith Henderson* ”



Cindy Riha - December 09, 2023 at 09:14 PM

MC

“ Memories of Mrs Henderson are abundant. She was the Mother of two of my best friends in High School, Mark and Bruce. I was always welcomed in the house and frequently had meals with the family. I especially recall eating a meal where she had prepared venison. It was delicious! We ate so much, (teenagers) that she made another batch.

When I decided to join the Army to go the Military Academy Preparatory School Mrs. Henderson was encouraging , despite this happening in 1967 , when being in the military was not popular, she encouraged me to pursue that career and I did. Mrs. Hendersons contributions to El Campo are numerous. Her contributions to individuals are innumerable. She lived her dedication to her Faith, her Family and her Community. She will be missed , but remembered.

Be thou at Peace. Mark Cole

Mark Cole - December 09, 2023 at 05:28 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joycelyn Smith Henderson.



December 09, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joycelyn Smith Henderson.



December 09, 2023 at 09:09 AM

AM

“ When I was a kid I had a stamp collection. Mrs. Henderson found out about my interest in stamps and gave me a slew of stamps from Australia. I still have these stamps and am grateful for Mrs. Henderson's generosity. She was a very kind person. My condolences to the family at this difficult time.



Andrea McCann - December 08, 2023 at 09:49 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joycelyn Smith Henderson.



December 08, 2023 at 03:15 PM

TG

“ Texas Capital Bank - FTW MM Group planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joycelyn Smith Henderson.

Texas Capital Bank - FTW MM Group - December 08, 2023 at 03:15 PM