



Joan Elizabeth Knight Barnes-Whitney

October 5, 1947 - May 27, 2025

Joan Elizabeth Knight Barnes-Whitney passed away on May 27, 2025, in Montgomery, Texas.

She was born on October 5, 1947, to James Knight Jr. and Elizabeth Cox.

Joan is survived by her brothers James Knight III and his wife Mona, and her beloved twin brother John Knight and his wife Terri. She is also survived by her children: Meredith Jaquay and her husband Joel, John Barnes II, Brian Whitney and his wife Diane, and Elizabeth Jezisek and her husband Taylor; and by her grandchildren: Katie Watts, Chad Watts, Gleason Whitney, Tyler Jezisek, and Gibson Jezisek. She leaves behind nieces, nephews, numerous other relatives and friends, and the thousands of children she taught and loved as her own.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Elizabeth Knight; her former husbands John Barnes and Jimmy Whitney.

Joan devoted her life to education, teaching elementary aged children for over four decades, and she spent countless hours in her classroom, working on lesson plans and shaping young minds. She was a good teacher—deeply committed and caring.

Outside the classroom, Joan enjoyed gardening, shopping, matching outfits, and having lunch with her fellow teachers—fondly referring to that time together as “Church.” She loved animals, especially her pets Mitsy and Elsie, and she was a long-time member of the April Sound Church, where she would walk across the street to attend services. Joan never tired of sharing the story of the time she met Elvis Presley on a beach at the age of 14 and took a picture with him—a memory she treasured.

Funeral services will be held on June 8th at 2:00 PM at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Willis, Texas. She will be laid to rest in Montgomery Cemetery following the service.

In honor of Joan’s lifelong commitment to her students, the family asks that donations be made

to school lunch funds—a cause close to her heart.

https://www.misd.org/departments/child_nutrition/plateitforward

The link to the live streaming of the service is below.

<https://client.tribucast.com/tcid/a25068762242023>

Cemetery Details

New Montgomery Cemetery

08 Old Plantersville Rd
Montgomery, TX 77316

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JUN 8. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Willis
10129 FM 1097 Rd W.
Willis, TX 77318

Interment following service

JUN 8 (CT)

New Montgomery Cemetery
Old Plantersville Road & 105 West
Montgomery, TX 77356

Tribute Wall



“ *Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Joan Elizabeth Knight Barnes-Whitney*



Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - June 05, 2025 at 01:12 PM



“ *Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Joan Elizabeth Knight Barnes-Whitney*



Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - June 05, 2025 at 01:12 PM

JF

“Joan holds a special place in my family's heart. She was in the same care facility as our Mom. Our family fell in love with her! Her kind eyes, sweet smile and contagious spirit will never be forgotten. My only regret in knowing Joan is I wish it would have been sooner. This past Christmas she filled a void in my heart and I am so thankful to have gotten to know her. She quickly became an added highlight to visiting our Mom. It's not goodbye, sweet Joan, but see you later. Besides, I told you when the good Lord calls me home, I am finding you and we will dance again in heaven! My thoughts and prayers are with her family during this difficult time. Heaven is a little bit sweeter knowing she is there...hugs xoxo

Joyce Freeman - May 30, 2025 at 11:04 AM

KA

Thank you!! I loved spending time with her and her friends in the facility!! It was a pleasure meeting them and definitely a memory i will never forget ❤️

Katie - June 02, 2025 at 10:01 PM

GK

“Gayle Kelly lit a candle in memory of Joan Elizabeth Knight Barnes-Whitney



Gayle Kelly - May 29, 2025 at 06:10 PM