



Joanne Nussbaum Sikes

March 2, 1935 - December 13, 2016

Joanne Nussbaum Sikes, age 81, loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother went home to meet her Lord and Savior on December 13, 2016. She was born on March 2, 1935 in Milwaukee Wisconsin, the daughter of Julius Harold and Erna Rang Nussbaum.

Joanne grew up in Mexia, Texas. She graduated from Mexia High School in 1953. She attended North Texas University before eventually transferring to Sam Houston State University graduating with a BA in Business Administration in 1957. She married LN (Sonny) Sikes in Waco, Texas on September 4, 1954 and they had two children, Sherri and Larry.

Joanne was a “stay at home” mom who also ran the Office of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) as the office manager for 18 years from home with the help of her dear friend Ivy Moss. Based on all of her endless support of the NIRA she was eventually named “Mother of the NIRA”. She was always very involved in the community by serving in the Huntsville Study Club and the Newcomers club, was a member of the Boy’s and Girl’s Club, served on the Walker County Rural Water Board, and established the SHSU Faculty Wives Club. She was a Lifetime member of the Alumni Association at SHSU and was presented the Alumni Association Service award in 2005. She was also instrumental in creating the SHSU Parents Association of which she is a life and charter member. Joanne was always

strong in her faith and was a member of the First United Methodist Church for 58 plus years and served on many committees.

Joanne was preceded in death by her mother, father, brother Harold Nussbaum and brother in-law Bobby Sikes. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Sonny Sikes, daughter Sherri Stephens and her husband William Louis (Rock), son Larry Sikes and his wife Shelley, grandchildren Ryan Stephens and his wife Alaina, Staci Stephens, Macy Fuller and her husband Aaron, Keely Sikes, and Landon Sikes, her first great grandchild Rhett Stephens, sisters in-laws Frances Ragland, Jan Powers, and brother in-law Jack Sikes.

Pallbearers will be Robert McCann, Kirk Moss, David Saunders, Jim Saunders, B.J. Sikes, Landon Sikes, Ryan Stephens, Roger Walters. Honorary pallbearers are Rusty Davis, Jim Dutton, Mathew Love, Brad McReynolds, Freddy Sikes, and Ronnie Williams.

The family cannot thank enough the caregivers of Consider the Lillies, specifically Jean Archie, Dawn Drake, Margie Johnson, Stacy Tubbs, Gayle Newkirk and Lara Lewis. They along with Thee Hospice took such great care of Joanne during her battle with NPH.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home.

A celebration of her life will begin on Thursday, December 15, 2016 with Visitation at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home from 5:00 – 8:00pm. There will be Service at the First United Methodist Church with Rev. Scott Dornbush on Friday December 16th at 10:00 am followed by the burial at Brook Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in her memory to The Sikes Family Scholarship Endowment, Attention: Office of University Advancement, SHSU, Box 2537, Huntsville, Texas 77341-2537.

Cemetery Details

Brooke Cemetery

672 FM 980
Huntsville, TX 77320

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 15. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville
1700 Normal Park Dr.
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 291-7300
belinda@shmfh.com

Service

DEC 16. 10:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church of Huntsville
1016 North Sam Houston Ave
Huntsville, TX

Tribute Wall



“ *Joanne Nussbaum Sikes*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Dear Sonny and family,
We just got word regarding the loss of your beautiful wife, mother and friends to many area residents. We apologize for not making the service but we were out of town. I have a Scripture that reads i this manner from my Catholic Bible: How great will your glory and happiness be, to be allowed to see God, to be honored with sharing the joy of Salvation and Eternal Light with Christ, your Lord and God ,,,,to delight in the joy of immortality in the Kingdom of Heaven with the Righteous and Gods Friends:-)))) We Pray that God will wrap his loving arms around your family at a most difficult time right here st the Holidays but God has a larger plan and we are to trust i the Lord our God with all of out Power!!*

For most sincere Sympathy to a superior family in our community and a individual who will be sorely missed by all:-))))

Respectively.

Floyd, Maryann, Donna Moore, AndyMartinez and Johnny Moore

Donna Moore - December 17, 2016 at 01:06 AM



“ *Consider the Lilies and Staff were privileged to be a part of Joanne Sikes life over the last few years. She will be dearly missed.*

vicki hogan - December 16, 2016 at 03:55 PM

CW

“ To the Sonny Sikes Family,
I learned from a mutual friend, Dave Golden
of the loss of your wife and "Life's Partner".
I was just reflecting that you was a Senior
when I started at SHSU, and we worked
together at the Ag. Lab under Mr. Ray Epps. I am also aware that
you and Joanne had a very successful career working with the
SHSU Rodeo Team and NIRA for many years.
There are many other connections that I could make mention that I
cherish from having you as a friend to my family. Funny thing that
my Nickname growing up was also
"Sonny". Just want you to know that you and family are in our
thoughts and prayers at this time of loss.
Colvin and Sandra Walker
Madisonville



Colvin and Sandra Walker - December 16, 2016 at 08:17 AM

MF

“ Joanne was one of the finest and most
dedicated individuals I have ever known to
her family, her church and the NIRA. She will
be missed by all who had the privilege of
knowing her. My deepest sympathy to Sonny,
Sherri, Larry and their family.

Mary Fuller



Mary Fuller - December 15, 2016 at 09:33 PM

CG

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this sad time.*



Cutty Gilbert - December 15, 2016 at 07:00 PM

KB

“ *Kurt and Vicki Smith and Braden purchased the S imply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Joanne Nussbaum Sikes.*



Kurt and Vicki Smith and Braden - December 15, 2016 at 01:13 PM

JL

“ *Thinking of you Sherri! Love you Jennifer Langley*

jennifer langley - December 15, 2016 at 09:58 AM

CP

“ *What a beautiful, loving and giving family. I will be forever grateful for the time that Randal was able to spend with Mr. and Mrs. Sikes. The life lessons taught while being given roping lessons were invaluable for Randal and the kindness and concern shown to him by both Sonny and Joanne were some of the most special times for me, as his mother. I can't leave out the fact that Randal always enjoyed a delicious lunch, lovingly prepared by Joanne, during those visits. I thank God for this family and will be praying for the entire family during this very difficult time.*

Cynthia Prehoda

Cynthia Prehoda - December 15, 2016 at 08:58 AM

MJ

“ *Dear Sonny, Sherri and family,*

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all as you celebrate Joanne's life and mourn her passing. I know you will miss her -- what an amazing life she lived!

John and Marla Johnson

Marla Johnson - December 15, 2016 at 07:54 AM

LS

“ *Lynn McCoy, Kes Sikes Ingram, Courtney Sikes purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Joanne Nussbaum Sikes.*



Lynn McCoy, Kes Sikes Ingram, Courtney Sikes - December 15, 2016 at 12:21 AM

MJ

“ My name is Melinda Blackard Jezierski. I just turned 48 years old last week but I had the privilege of being a friend of the Sikes family when I was a little girl. Mr. Sikes was a true mentor to me... he taught me to ride a horse and much more. It was rare that a week would go by without him taking a few minutes on his way home to stop and chat while I played in the front yard. I admired Sherri and I adored Larry like a big brother. In fact, we have found children's books where I wrote on the front cover "Mommy, Daddy, Melinda and Larry". Mrs. Sikes was one of my dedicated emergency contacts. In the early 70s, before cell phones, my mom taught me how to run through the field behind our house to get to Mrs. Sikes in case of emergency because she knew she could count on her for anything. When I was bored, I would do just that....run through the field, through the back yard where a 3-legged dog lived and received as much love and training as any 4-legged friend, and into the office where Mrs. Sikes and Mrs. Moss worked on NIRA business. I can still see them sitting at their desks-- it was like watching a sit com. I would sit on the floor and help lick envelopes while I listened to Mrs. Sikes tell her stories. The stories could be about anything, but I know if you are reading this you are beginning to smile as you remember how she would start with that thick Texas accent. Pretty soon she would be laughing so hard herself that she could barely make it to the end and Mrs. Moss would be rolling with silent laughter herself. That's how I remember Joanne Sikes...the one that found humor and joy in the world and knew how to make you laugh and feel loved. I feel so blessed to have that memory.

Melinda Jezierski - December 14, 2016 at 09:52 PM

BM

“*My Dear Sonny - I'm so sorry for you and the family having to go through this BUT, on the other hand, she is okay now. She is back to her vibrant sunny, laughing & loving self with the Lord God and ALL OF HEAVEN. I know - that doesn't bring you a bit of comfort now, even though you have been suffering along with her in her lack of ability to do! Although you probably felt like you were dying a little each day with her; try to rejoice in her escape from this dreadful disease that took "HER" away from you beginning years ago. Any time we SHSU Agriculture Department Faculty and Staff got together socially, Joanne was such a sweet Hostess with her smiles, laughs, & little stories all the while being her most efficient self. Bill and I have missed her since the last Ag Christmas Party the two of you attended. He mentioned today, after reading the Obit, "I always thought she had the nicest smile and ways about her. I really liked her."*

Sonny, just remember she will always be near you looking over you with maybe an ever- so-gentle kiss on your cheek. When you get really down and sorrowful in your grief, remember she wants you to remember her in your wonderful/good memories.

If you haven't thought to tell your Grandchildren about some of the funny things the two of you encountered in the early days of your marriage & your rodeoing, please do. It will make you all laugh as it did me when you told me.:)

*We love YOU dearly and wish we could take away the pain in your Heart and Mind. All we can do is ask the Lord Jesus to grant YOU and the family, His Healing Graces, Love and Compassion. Lord, please give them a speedy recovery. Love & Prayers!
Karen and Billy*

Bill Karen McPike - December 14, 2016 at 08:56 PM

YF

“ Your SAIC Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Joanne Nussbaum Sikes.



Your SAIC Family - December 14, 2016 at 04:58 PM

LB

“ Heaven is celebrating the homecoming of a beautiful angel. Our prayers are with you, Sonny, Larry, Sherri and family.

Linda and Ken Beene

Linda and Ken Beene - December 14, 2016 at 03:55 PM

NR

“ NIRA - College Rodeo purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Joanne Nussbaum Sikes.



NIRA - College Rodeo - December 14, 2016 at 02:28 PM

LD

“ God has blessed her for the blessing that she gave us. I went to Sam Houston back in the 1950's and she blessed us cowboys with a smile. Thanks you Sonny for allowing her to do so. We sure need those smiles.-----Leroy Delk

Leroy Delk - December 14, 2016 at 02:03 PM

JH

“ My sincere condolences to the family. I can fully appreciate your current grief but having known Joanne for 67-68 of her 81 years, I can only concentrate on the good she brought to the world and those who were positively touched by her presence. To the family, especially Sonny, Sherri, and Larry, simply "hang tough!" I know Joanne would have you do so!
Jimmy Haskins

jimmy haskins - December 14, 2016 at 12:06 PM

JH

“ Ms. Joanne and I used to work together at First United Methodist Church. She was such a joy. We had real fun. We would run into each other through the years..she was always the same joy. Thank you God for this blessing. She always made me laugh. Jan L. Hill

Jan L. Hill - December 14, 2016 at 09:32 AM

C(

“ Charles & Doris Knippa ("Shetland") purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Joanne Nussbaum Sikes.



Charles & Doris Knippa ("Shetland") - December 14, 2016 at 09:21 AM

DP

“ Donna Robinson Paschall lit a candle in memory of Joanne Nussbaum Sikes



Donna Robinson Paschall - December 14, 2016 at 08:10 AM

JW

“ Prayers that you all find comfort and peace through this. I miss her laugh!! Boy could she light up a room! OShe is now in the greatest place to be... What a homecoming!! She is now with Harold, Nanny (Joyce) and Mom (Emily)!!! You guys are in our hearts and thoughts... We love you! Jenny Holderman-Walters, Brooklyn & Rich Walters and Family

Jennifer Walters - December 13, 2016 at 11:03 PM

LM

“ Hugs and prayers for such a special family. Sonny we are praying for you! Love Leah and David Mulligan



Leah Mulligan - December 13, 2016 at 10:53 PM

KF

“ I loved Joanne Sikes. Plain & simply. I respected her, admired her, wished I could be more like her. I feel so very blessed to have had her in my life even for a little time. My heart & prayers are with all of the Sikes now & in the days to come. Kay Nabors Fountain

Kay Fountain - December 13, 2016 at 08:34 PM

SS

“ Sue And Pat Sprott lit a candle in memory of Joanne Nussbaum Sikes



Sue and Pat Sprott - December 13, 2016 at 04:34 PM

BJ

“ To the family of Joanne, so sorry for your loss.. I went to school with her from grammar school thru high school. I remember a group of girls from Mexia HS class of 53 went to Huntsville at the Sikes home for lunch and visitation and how much we enjoyed. She was a sweet, giving person. May God bless Sonny and her children and give them His peace.

Billie Ray Denton Jorda,

Billie Ray Denton Jorda - December 13, 2016 at 03:18 PM



“ *Bright and Beautiful Spray* was purchased for the family of Joanne Nussbaum Sikes.



December 13, 2016 at 03:06 PM

LL

“ *Just want you to know how much we love you.*
The Loves

Lisa Love - December 13, 2016 at 12:43 PM

TS

“ *Many memories are filling my heart and mind this morning of a lady I respected and admired. I will always be thankful to her for a warm and inviting welcome into the Sikes' family 42 years ago. She leaves a beautiful legacy.*

Tonie Sikes

Toie Sikes - December 13, 2016 at 11:32 AM

DM

“*Sherri, Larry, Mr. Sikes and family, I'm so sorry for your loss. Mrs. Sikes was one of those ladies that had a huge impact on my life in so many positive ways. She always had a smile on her face and time for you. She was a wonderful person and will be missed by many. You and your sweet family are in my prayers and thoughts, Sending Hugs Debbie*

Debbie Mitcham - December 13, 2016 at 11:31 AM

PC

“*Peggy Crabb lit a candle in memory of Joanne Nussbaum Sikes*



Peggy Crabb - December 13, 2016 at 11:28 AM

PC

Suvh a sweet lady.She will be greatly missed.Prayers for all.

Peggy Crabb - December 13, 2016 at 11:29 AM

KC

“*Sonny, so sorry to hear about Joanne. She was the sweetest lady ever, and she will be missed by so many.*

Love, Kay

Kay Campbell - December 13, 2016 at 10:03 AM

MW

“ *Sonny, Sherry & Rock, Larry & Shelly: I am so sorry for your loss. She was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother & friend to so many. She will be missed. I love all of you.*

*Mellicent (Sikes) Wiley
& family*



Mellicent Sikes Wiley - December 13, 2016 at 09:21 AM