



Mrs. Joan Bridges

February 8, 1946 - December 10, 2024

A Celebration of Life service for Mrs. Joan Bridges, 78, of Henderson, will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at First Methodist Church of Henderson, officiated by Rev. Mike Mayhugh. Family and friends are invited to gather in the Great Hall following the service to share memories and offer condolences.

Joan will forever be remembered as a vibrant and loving presence in the lives of all who knew her. She was a dedicated teacher, cherished friend, devoted sister, beloved wife, and a treasured aunt, mother, and grandmother. Her warmth and joy filled every role she embraced. Joan had a unique ability to make everyone she met feel like an instant friend. Her radiant smile and infectious laughter will be profoundly missed but will live on in the hearts of all she touched.

Mrs. Bridges passed away on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, in Tyler. Born on February 8, 1946, in Henderson to the late Jay Brown and Ora Lea Griffin, she led a life filled with passion and dedication. She was the owner of the East Texas Twirling Academy for over 50 years, shaping countless young lives with her talent and enthusiasm. A graduate of New London High School, she attended Stephen F. Austin State University, where she served as the Head Twirl-O-Jack and later became the Choreographer for 37 years. In addition to twirling, she was a competitive USTA tennis player. Joan was also a devoted

member of the First Methodist Church of Henderson and sang in the church choir.

In addition to her parents, Joan was preceded in death by her brother, Jerry Griffin. She is survived by her husband, Terry Bridges of Henderson; her sons, Brad Bridges, and Clay Bridges, both of Henderson; her sister, Patricia Bridges and husband Jerry; her brother, Gary Griffin, all of Henderson; her beloved grandchildren, Cannon Bridges, Madisyn Elliott and husband Kane, and Bradley Bridges; and numerous nieces and nephews who held a special place in her heart.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to First Methodist Church of Henderson, 204 N. Marshall St., Henderson, TX 75652, or to the Bridges Cemetery, 1307 Westwood, Henderson, TX 75654.

Joan's legacy of love, kindness, and laughter will remain an enduring inspiration to all who knew her.

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at www.crawfordacrim.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

DEC 17. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Methodist Church
204 N. Marshall St.
Henderson, TX 75652

Tribute Wall



“ *Crawford A.Crim Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Joan Bridges*



Crawford- A.Crim Funeral Home - December 16, 2024 at 10:46 AM

CH

“ *carl harmonson lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



carl harmonson - December 22, 2024 at 08:13 AM

TR

“ *Twela Ropp lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Twela Ropp - December 18, 2024 at 07:02 PM

YO

“ *Yolandreia (Lon) & Kala Oliver lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Yolandreia (Lon) & Kala Oliver - December 17, 2024 at 03:22 PM

AR

“ *Colby, Amy, Ava, & Libby Rockey*



Amy Rockey - December 17, 2024 at 01:00 PM

KS

“ *Kurtis & Paula Sledge lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Kurtis & Paula Sledge - December 17, 2024 at 12:45 PM

AB

“ *Joan was a big part of my life! I will forever remember the ETTA chant for the Christmas parade! Love and prayers to all!!*



Amber Eric Brown - December 17, 2024 at 11:32 AM

MM

“ *Chi Omega love goes out to Joan's family. She was my sister at SFA. I never found her grumpy, at a loss for words, or without that beautiful bang curled up at night in the dorm. What poise and beauty she possessed, both outside and in.*

Marilyn Martin - December 16, 2024 at 05:27 PM

AC

“ *Annette E Cammack lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Annette E Cammack - December 16, 2024 at 11:24 AM

BH

“ *Barry Hampton lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Barry Hampton - December 16, 2024 at 08:36 AM

SM

“ *Shannon McKey lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Shannon McKey - December 16, 2024 at 07:10 AM

CS

“ Carl & Diana Smith lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges



Carl & Diana Smith - December 14, 2024 at 09:08 PM

AS

“ Mrs. Joan was an absolute legend and a huge influence on the lives of so many young women. She was a wonderful example of poise and confidence, and I will forever remember her putting red lipstick on me on several occasions. I knew her my entire life and have fond memories of the years I was part of ETTA. It was a goal to be immortalized on the wall of pictures in her studio. I still point my toes and stand in “T” position. May she rest in peace. 🕊



Ashley McDonald Sawaf - December 14, 2024 at 03:40 PM

DC

“ A well loved lady in our community. She will be missed. Her kindness and smile will be missed. Our many prayers for all of her children and grandchildren. Not to forget both sides of all her families and many many friends.
Our Deepest Sympathies,
David & Kathy Chapman



David & Kathy Chapman - December 14, 2024 at 03:33 PM

AM

“ *She was a beautiful soul*



amanda - December 14, 2024 at 02:39 PM

JC

“ *Jan Crow lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Jan Crow - December 14, 2024 at 02:17 PM

TC

“ *Tony and Anita Cavaliere lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Tony and Anita Cavaliere - December 14, 2024 at 10:44 AM

MB

“ *Margaret Green Brown lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Margaret Green Brown - December 14, 2024 at 08:25 AM

PH

“ *Patsy Hammontree lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Patsy Hammontree - December 13, 2024 at 08:48 PM

KD

“ *So sorry to hear of Joan's passing. She will always hold a special place in my heart.*



Kim Clay Dixon - December 13, 2024 at 05:13 PM

CB

“ To Terry, Brad, and Clay - Thank you for allowing so many girls into your lives and home, but especially for sharing Joan with us. She helped so many young women become who we are today. I will always love her for the countless times I shared with her - full of fun, work, talks, and some of best advice - about more than just twirling. The memories of running up to your house on that long driveway for ice cubes from “her” ice maker will always make me smile.
To Pat - she loved you so very much and told me how proud she was just to be your sister!
To Buffie - I just love you beyond words, and must also thank you, too, for sharing your Aunt with hundreds of girls that were lucky just to know her. I’m so thankful you became one more bonus of learning to twirl.



God certainly blessed this world with Joan Griffin Bridges.

ETTA and TOJ’s forever, Colleen Phillips Briggs

Colleen Briggs - December 13, 2024 at 03:33 PM

CM

“ We love Miss Joan! She is truly a legend!! She taught Rachel so much over the many years of twirling. We are honored to have known her and to have spent so much time with her. Prayers of comfort and peace for the family.

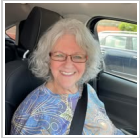
Carlette and Rachel Mills - December 13, 2024 at 12:55 PM

CM

“ *Carlette and Rachel Mills lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Carlette and Rachel Mills - December 13, 2024 at 12:53 PM



“ *Prayers of peace and comfort for your family.
Stephanie Green Osteen*



Stephanie Osteen - December 13, 2024 at 11:49 AM

AS

“ *Angie Shepard lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Angie Shepard - December 13, 2024 at 09:33 AM

KH

“ *Mollie & Ken Hale*



Ken Hale - December 13, 2024 at 08:45 AM

DD

“ *Dixie Duncan lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Dixie Duncan - December 13, 2024 at 08:14 AM

HC

“ *Harriet Craig lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Harriet Craig - December 13, 2024 at 07:26 AM

DS

“ *Joan was a true Southern Belle! She was always so poised with such beauty. Joan has left a huge hole in the community as well as in the hearts of many. RIP sweet Joan! Prayers for all of her family & friends.*



Debbie Stuart - December 13, 2024 at 01:42 AM



“ *Chris Brady lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Chris Brady - December 12, 2024 at 11:51 PM

BB

“ Bobby and Teresa Brady lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges



Bobby and Teresa Brady - December 12, 2024 at 10:07 PM

JW

“ Joey Watts lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges



Joey Watts - December 12, 2024 at 08:41 PM

CB

“ Carolyn Boren lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges



Carolyn Boren - December 12, 2024 at 07:40 PM

AH

“ I was in high school before I became a student of hers and at that point she was already a legend! I remember being so excited and a little scared. She made a great impression on me not only in twirling but life in general. What an amazing legacy she leaves behind through so many lives touched!! Prayers for the family. She will definitely be missed!!

Amy Haden - December 12, 2024 at 07:26 PM

AM

“ Amy Miley-Payne lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges



Amy Miley-Payne - December 12, 2024 at 07:17 PM

CT

“ Chuck & Lisa Towe lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges



Chuck & Lisa Towe - December 12, 2024 at 06:29 PM



“ Tracy Lynn lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges



Tracy Lynn - December 12, 2024 at 06:15 PM

MF

“ Mary Fuller lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges



Mary Fuller - December 12, 2024 at 05:51 PM

DM

“ *Love the laughter we shared. Prayers for the family*



Debbie Miley - December 12, 2024 at 05:35 PM

MH

“ *Mike & Patricia Herrington lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Mike & Patricia Herrington - December 12, 2024 at 05:09 PM

BA

“ *So honored I was able to be a student of hers. She was the best twirling teacher anyone could have. I loved how she pushed and challenged me to be better. I bet she's dancing and twirling across heaven's floors. Rest in peace and prayers for the family.*

Brandy A. - December 12, 2024 at 03:54 PM

PP

“ *What an unbelievable impact she has had on my life! Growing up, everyone knew Joan was the epitome of perfection. She was THE Twirl-O-Jack. Everyone wanted to learn from Joan. I was so fortunate to have her as a twirling teacher. Her choreography was what made me achieve a level one at State UIL and Outstanding Performer from every State Judge I ever had. I now have been a State UIL Judge in twirling for 17 years. Every year I judge I think back to her guidance and how I would not be in that position if it were not for Joan Bridges.*

I am a lawyer because of twirling. The hard work, discipline, and dedication I learned through twirling, I applied to law school. I didn't learn it in classes in high school or college. I learned it on the scalding hot asphalt parking lot across from the William R. Johnson Coliseum twirling batons.

In today's universities enrollment is a high topic of discussion. I know that there has never been an English, Math, or Science Professor who has ever recruited for SFA the way Joan Bridges did. There is no telling how many hundreds, if not thousands, of young women attended SFA because of Joan Bridges. There are women in this world who received a college degree because of those batons. And the ripple effects don't stop there. Their daughters and their daughters will see that every woman is capable of obtaining a college degree.

Joan's love and dedication to the art of baton twirling has inspired so many girls who grew into women. I know the lessons they learned from Joan they have applied to their work and family life just like I have. The effects of what she did will be seen generations into the future.

God Speed my dear teacher!

Paige Pattillo

Paige Pattillo - December 12, 2024 at 03:31 PM

CN

“ Clay Newcomb & Frances Newcomb lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges



Clay Newcomb & Frances Newcomb - December 12, 2024 at 03:16 PM

LB

“ Linda Jones and Devona (Jones) Buck lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges



Linda Jones and Devona (Jones) Buck - December 12, 2024 at 03:12 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Mrs. Joan Bridges.



December 12, 2024 at 02:22 PM

KH

“ Karla Nichols Hambrick lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges



Karla Nichols Hambrick - December 12, 2024 at 01:01 PM

BJ

“ *Barbara Jolley lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Barbara Jolley - December 12, 2024 at 12:59 PM



“ *Pam Brown lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Pam Brown - December 12, 2024 at 11:23 AM

LM

“ *What a fun-loving, hardworking person!! From Tommy's first year teaching at the Middle School to teaching our daughter, Madison, Joan has been a huge part of our lives!! We have spent countless hours together! My family loves Ms. Joan and her whole family!! We have been praying for you!*

Tommy, Lisa, Janson, and Madison (Burns) Moore



Lisa Moore - December 12, 2024 at 11:05 AM

RC

“ Regina Callender lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges



Regina Callender - December 12, 2024 at 10:58 AM

LC

“ Linda C Culp lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges



Linda C Culp - December 12, 2024 at 09:26 AM

CW

“ I have so many memories with Joan and am so sorry about her passing. She was such a talented person, and I will always remember her laugh and her love of life. She touched many lives in East Texas and will be missed by many. Sending love to the family.

Cyndi Walker - December 12, 2024 at 09:23 AM

JC

“ She was a great one. I remember the early 70's and Christmas parades. Mrs Bridges walked beside us, shouting E T T A, East Texas Twirling Academy. She touched many lives.

Judy Stephens Case - December 12, 2024 at 09:23 AM

MC

“ Thank you Mrs. Joan for loving on my kiddo, he is sure gonna miss those amazing Nutella cookies you made for him each time he was over. Thank you for opening up your place for all these years to allow the kiddos to come over and swim with Cannon. You will be greatly missed!

Mandy Clark - December 12, 2024 at 09:17 AM

BC

“ Joan was so instrumental in my TOJ years. I appreciated her talent and her impeccable work ethic. I am praying for comfort and peace for her loved one.
Beth Ladner Collins



Beth Ladner Collins - December 12, 2024 at 09:13 AM

JG

“ Jo Ellen Graham lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges



Jo Ellen Graham - December 12, 2024 at 09:10 AM

PP

“ pud patterson lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges



pud patterson - December 12, 2024 at 09:02 AM

LD

“ *Leann Dorsey lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Leann Dorsey - December 12, 2024 at 08:43 AM

LA

“ *LORIE ARNOLD lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



LORIE ARNOLD - December 12, 2024 at 08:35 AM

GK

“ *Gene Kelsey lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Gene Kelsey - December 12, 2024 at 08:19 AM

JJ

“ *Jason&Susan Jarrell lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Jason&Susan Jarrell - December 12, 2024 at 08:07 AM

BE

“ Prayers for the family.



Brandy Ellis - December 12, 2024 at 07:52 AM



“ Tonya Guin lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges



Tonya Guin - December 12, 2024 at 07:46 AM

KK

“ Prayers for peace and comfort for her family and friends. ❤️🙏



Kim Krantz - December 12, 2024 at 07:26 AM

CS

“ Craig and Paula Sweeney lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges



Craig and Paula Sweeney - December 12, 2024 at 07:10 AM

CF

“ *Cliff and Krista Furtick lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Cliff and Krista Furtick - December 12, 2024 at 06:34 AM

LG

“ *Linda Gooding lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Linda Gooding - December 12, 2024 at 06:27 AM

HM

“ *Hal and Rosa Martin lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Hal and Rosa Martin - December 12, 2024 at 02:06 AM

TM

“ *Tami Moore lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Tami Moore - December 12, 2024 at 01:42 AM

BG

“ *Praying for peace and comfort*
Bonnie Geddie



Bonnie Geddie - December 12, 2024 at 12:52 AM

LN

“ ❤️❤️❤️



Lynden Nance - December 12, 2024 at 12:40 AM

GL

“ *Glenda Leadon lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Glenda Leadon - December 12, 2024 at 12:16 AM

RD

“ *Roy and Pat Davis lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Roy and Pat Davis - December 11, 2024 at 11:25 PM

JP

“ Jennifer Persons lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges



Jennifer Persons - December 11, 2024 at 11:19 PM

JS

“ Jamie Skelton and Karen Skelton lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges



Jamie Skelton and Karen Skelton - December 11, 2024 at 11:14 PM

PB

“ Patti Capps Bryan lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges



Patti Capps Bryan - December 11, 2024 at 11:10 PM

TM

“ I twirled for Mrs. Joan for many many years. She was truly an amazing teacher and always pushed me to do my very best. She will always hold a place in my heart! May God cover her family and twirling family. She will be missed!

Tawana Mccarty - December 11, 2024 at 10:54 PM

RD

“ Rachel Dessecker lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges



Rachel Dessecker - December 11, 2024 at 10:26 PM

MC

“ Madison Coil lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges



Madison Coil - December 11, 2024 at 10:12 PM

LW

“ Lacy Weaver lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges



Lacy Weaver - December 11, 2024 at 10:07 PM

CB

“ You touched many lives sweet lady. Rest in peace.



Christie Bisnette - December 11, 2024 at 09:05 PM

TM

“ *TRUDY MCGILL lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



TRUDY MCGILL - December 11, 2024 at 08:36 PM

CB

“ *Cleta A Blair lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Cleta A Blair - December 11, 2024 at 08:17 PM

CB

“ *Cleta A Blair lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Cleta A Blair - December 11, 2024 at 08:10 PM

AW

“ *Arlene White lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Arlene White - December 11, 2024 at 08:03 PM

SF

“ *May God comfort Joan Bridge's family and friends. She was loved and will be missed by so many.*

Sara Finley - December 11, 2024 at 07:40 PM

JS

“ *Judy Stokes lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Judy Stokes - December 11, 2024 at 07:08 PM

DA

“ *Donna Aaron lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Donna Aaron - December 11, 2024 at 06:26 PM

TS

“ *Tracey Shankle lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Tracey Shankle - December 11, 2024 at 05:31 PM

SN

“ *Sissy Neill lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Sissy Neill - December 11, 2024 at 05:01 PM

ED

“ *Elaine Davis lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Elaine Davis - December 11, 2024 at 04:01 PM

TV

“ *Tom Vaught lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Tom Vaught - December 11, 2024 at 03:18 PM

BP

“ *Prayers for family. She will be missed by so many*

Beth Pope

Beth Pope - December 11, 2024 at 03:14 PM

SS

“ *Susan Stevens lit a candle in memory of Joan Bridges*



Susan Stevens - December 11, 2024 at 02:44 PM