



Joy Lou Aldridge Wade
09/23/1925 – 02/27/2021

Joy Lou Aldridge Wade passed away on February 27, 2021 from congestive heart failure. She was born to Ira Nelson Aldridge and Ernie Clark Aldridge on September 23, 1925 in the area called “Wanamaker” near Dixon, Kentucky.

Determined to get a higher education, Joy left home for nurses training under the World War II Army Cadet program, under which she earned her RN. She worked as a surgical nurse and at the Wellborn Clinic in Evansville, Indiana. Joy met Elbert E. Wade through a blind date, and they were married on November 24, 1949.

Daughters Brenda Ann and Sandra (Sandy) Kay were born in Evansville, Indiana. Those early years in Evansville were challenging for the young family, and Joy worked nights so that she could take care of her children during the day. In 1959, the family moved to Columbus, Indiana where Elbert continued his career with the United States Air Force Reserves. It was a period when people often sacrificed careers for the sake of family and despite being in demand as a well-respected and experienced RN, Joy chose to support her family by being a homemaker. She spent much of her days picking and then freezing or canning various fruits and vegetables and taking her daughters to swimming, ice-skating, tennis, and dance lessons and taking them to the church’s youth center for roller skating and other activities. There were many times when Joy would sit in the bleachers breaking beans while her daughters enjoyed swimming at Donner Center. The family stayed in Columbus until the end of Brenda’s senior year in high school and then they moved to several cities having Air Force bases in Ohio and Texas, while Elbert continued to rise in military rank, eventually becoming the Director of Operations for Central Region.

After Elbert’s retirement, he and Joy moved from Austin to Schertz, Texas, where they were active in their church and in Bible Study Fellowship. They were married for almost 53 years, until Elbert’s death in 2002. Joy continued to live in their Schertz home, with the exception of a few years in Houston where daughter Brenda could better assist her. Joy and Brenda returned to her Schertz home in the fall of 2020 where she lived until her death.

Those who knew her habitually referred to Joy as a “sweet lady with a wonderful smile,” as a “Godly woman” and as someone who deeply loved all her family and sincerely cared about her country. It was not unusual for someone meeting her for the first time to develop an instant rapport with her. Many would comment that she was appropriately named “Joy.”

Joy is survived by her daughters, Brenda Wade and Sandra Wade Stancek (Jerry Stancek); two grandsons and their wives: Jonathan Wade Stancek (Elizabeth) and James William Stancek (Jewel); and three great-grandchildren: Guinevere, Merrit and Della.

Visitation will be held at Funeral Caring USA in the Alamo City Church on April 6, 2021 with a short memorial service at Fort Sam Houston that afternoon. Those wishing to attend, please contact family members for further information. Because of coronavirus restrictions, flowers may not be present at the memorial service. In lieu of flowers, please send a donation in Joy’s name to Samaritan’s Purse (PO Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607) or to the International Disaster Emergency Services (“I.D.E.S.”) (PO Box 379 Noblesville, IN 46061).