



## Joan Harris

November 22, 1929 - July 20, 2024

Joan Kelpen Harris was born on November 22, 1929 in Athens, Texas, the oldest child of Hamby and Jewel Clay Kelpen. The Kelpen family was well known for their ice cream soda fountain in Athens, Texas. Joans family moved to Terrell at the age of 13 when her father became responsible for assuring the refrigeration was working properly for the then famous Kelpen's Ice Cream Company.

Joan attended Abilene Christian College, where she obtained her degree in business. When she returned home, she discovered her dad had used his respected position in the community to persuade Ben Gill, Chairman of the Board of American National Bank, to give his daughter a job. Her transition into the workforce was seamless because her loving family had instilled in her the importance of customer service, a business mindset and a strong work ethic.

Shortly after she returned to Terrell, she was set up on a blind date with a man she fell madly in love with by the name of John Harris, and the rest is history. Joan married her husband in 1955 and they had three children, Jennie, Jeff and Jill.

When Mr. Gill found out she knew shorthand, he approached her to be his secretary. She was reluctant to take the position and told Mr. Gill she was too

slow to take shorthand for him. Mr. Gill promptly responded, “Joan, I’ll go really. . . really . . . slow.” This was undoubtedly a match made in heaven because Joan worked for him, followed by Chairman of the Board Riter Hulse and ANB General Counsel John Davidson. Joan eventually became a vice president and proudly worked at ANBTX until her retirement. She loved her job with all her heart and said it never felt like work. She enjoyed serving customers and helping with all of their banking needs. She was blessed to develop lifelong friendships with her coworkers and customers throughout her 40-year career.

After retiring from the bank, Joan and her husband John traveled across the United States in their fifth wheel travel trailer, a hobby they enjoyed for more than 20 years. During this time, they developed relationships with a vast number of lifelong friends from across the country, especially in their favorite location, Estes Park, Colorado. Joan was forever grateful for the opportunity to spend their retirement years with such wonderful people.

Joan was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s at the age of 65. Throughout the 29 years she spent living with this disease, she never lost her faith and joy. She was always the same kind, soft-hearted, wonderful soul, until her last day. She would always say that everything and everyone was ‘WONDERFUL!’ or ‘PERFECT!’ She always said ‘thank you’ to everyone for anything they did for her. She greeted you with a smile and told you how much you were appreciated. She had a big heart and knew how to make anyone feel special.

Joan is survived by her daughter Jill Slayton-Cauble and her husband Jerry ‘JC’ Cauble, granddaughters, Lindsey Webb and husband Justin, and Hannah Mack and husband Justin; great-grandchildren, Brayden, Tenley, Style and Klassic; niece Kaye and great niece, Shelby; devoted caretakers, Celia and her husband Al, Gracie and Diane. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband John, daughter Jennie, son Jeff, granddaughter Jennie,

brother Hamby, and sister Phyllis.

The family requests memorials be made to: The Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago, ILL 60601 or the O'Donnell Brain Institute, UT Southwestern Medical Center, P.O. Box 910888, Dallas, TX 75391-0888.

Funeral services will be held Monday, August 5, 2024, at Max Slayton Funeral Chapel starting at 10:00 am. A visitation will be held Sunday, August 4, 2024, at Max Slayton Funeral Chapel from 2 - 4 pm.

# Cemetery Details

## Oakland Memorial Park

1000 W. Moore Avenue  
Terrell, TX 75160

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 4. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Max Slayton Funeral Chapel  
642 N. Rockwall Ave.  
Terrell, TX 75160

## Funeral Service

AUG 5. 10:00 AM (CT)

Max Slayton Funeral Chapel  
642 N. Rockwall Ave.  
Terrell, TX 75160

# Tribute Wall



“ *Max Slayton Funerals and Cremations created a Tribute Video in memory of Joan Harris*

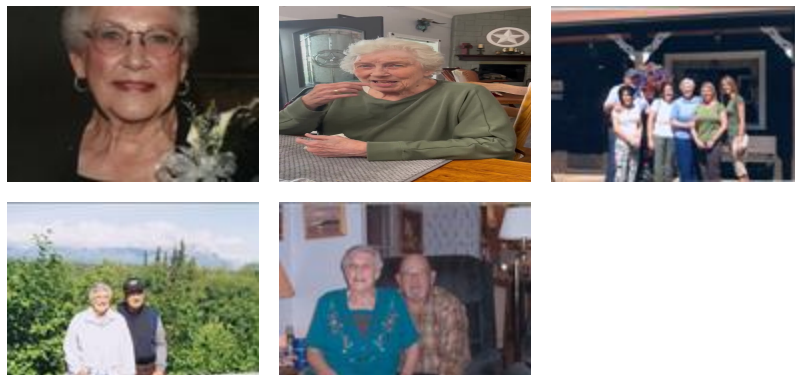


---

**Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations** - August 05, 2024 at 11:11 AM



“ *79 files added to the album Memories Album*



---

**Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations** - August 05, 2024 at 11:20 AM

SC

“ *Joan was always sweet and kind and had a smile. She was loved by everyone and such a pleasure to know. May the loving memories we all have of her last forever. RIP, Joan. Art and Stephanie Crothers*

---

**Stephanie Crothers** - August 02, 2024 at 09:59 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Joan Harris.*



August 02, 2024 at 04:33 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joan Harris.*



August 02, 2024 at 11:18 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joan Harris.*



August 01, 2024 at 08:56 AM



“ *From: The Dunn Family and Badgett Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joan Harris.*

**The Dunn Family and Badgett Family** - August 01, 2024 at 08:56 AM

LC

“ *Louis & Jackie Cernoch purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Joan Harris.*



---

**Louis & Jackie Cernoch** - July 31, 2024 at 11:02 AM

LC

“ *Louis & Jackie Cernoch planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joan Harris.*

---

**Louis & Jackie Cernoch** - July 31, 2024 at 11:02 AM

WJ

“ *Wayne Backus & Clarinda Johnson purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Joan Harris.*



---

**Wayne Backus & Clarinda Johnson** - July 29, 2024 at 03:06 PM

AL

“ *I will so miss her greeting and sweet smile everytime I walked through the door. What a joy she was to be around! So grateful she is finally reunited with all of her loved ones. Prayers for Jill and family on this great loss.*

---

**Alison** - July 29, 2024 at 10:48 AM

JB

“ It seems as though Joan was always here. What a special and lovely lady! As a Kelpen she is a important part of Terrell history and a fond memory of growing up in this city. She lives on in the hearts of those that know her. Jill and family, my condolences for your loss but also we celebrate her complete healing through her transition into the presence of our Lord! Much love to you all.

---

**Jerry Burr** - July 29, 2024 at 08:19 AM

SC

“ Sharon Rush Collins lit a candle in memory of Joan Harris



---

**Sharon Rush Collins** - July 26, 2024 at 04:16 PM

MF

“ Jill, I was saddened to hear about your mother. I knew her my whole life. Joan was a beautiful lady with a big heart. You are all in my thoughts & prayers.



---

**Marsha Flowers** - July 26, 2024 at 03:21 PM

KS

“ Dear Jill,Lindsey,Hannah & families,

*We were so sorry to hear about your sweet  
Mama,Grandmother & Great Grandmother!  
She was a beautiful lady inside & out and her  
smile would light up a room. Keeping you all in our thoughts and  
prayers now and in the days to come! We love you!*

*With deepest sympathy,  
Karo & Wilson*



---

**Karo Stewart** - July 25, 2024 at 08:55 PM

MA

“ Molly and Craig Akin purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Joan Harris.



---

**Molly and Craig Akin** - July 23, 2024 at 12:02 PM

CH

“ She was a beautiful and sweet lady. I am so sorry to hear of her passing. I know she will be missed. My heart goes out to Jill and her family.

---

**Cindy Hunter** - July 22, 2024 at 12:41 PM