



## JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake

August 13, 1954 - January 13, 2025

JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake, August 13, 1954 – January 13, 2025

JoAnn or “Joanie” as her family and friends called her, was a great and immutable force in the lives of those she touched. She made everyone feel welcomed, included, and loved. She grew up in Rosenberg, Texas and was the youngest of four, and the only daughter to Joseph and Wilma Stryk.

As a young adult, she graduated from the University of St. Thomas in Houston. She then met and married Mike Griffin, and they traveled all over the world on so many adventures, camping and surfing, but the moment she found out she was pregnant with her first son, Shaun, she knew she needed to come home to Texas.

Back home in Texas, she grew her family to four children. After her relationship with Mike ended, she went to work for the Harris County Department of Education and eventually pursued a Master’s degree in Education. She worked during the day and went to school at night for the betterment of her family.

Her professional career with the Harris Country Department of Education began in 1986 as an Adult Technician. In the years working in public service, she launched numerous professional development initiatives that elevated the level of Adult Education instruction and catapulted Texas forward in this much

needed sector of education. She established regional training centers for Adult Education staff so that relevant evidence-based training could be readily available to instructors throughout the state and, also, established a teacher credential project to further develop adult education instructors.

Joanie worked with the U.S. Department of Education, the Texas Education Agency, and adult educators throughout Texas to develop and implement a student data system that led to data-based instruction. She connected local adult education leaders to ideas, research, and innovation through the Leadership Excellence Academy. Joanie was the first state leader to openly address learning disabilities in the adult education classroom. When Joanie retired, she held the position of State of Texas Director of Adult Education.

It was during this time that she met her husband, Roger. In 1988, their friend Rob hosted a party to get them acquainted. Eleven years later, Joanie and Roger were married and have since been inseparable. Joanie loved creating and helping, and Roger was the key to take it to the next level. With Roger, she had someone to drop off cupcakes at her daughter's house while she was making two cakes at home. Joanie could not be "Joanie" without Roger.

Throughout her whole career, she always made the time to be a present and driving force in the lives of her children and extended family. Upon her retirement in 2011, she dedicated even more time to doing the things she loved most. Joanie was constantly "doing." If she was at home, she would spend her time gardening, cutting the grass, creating new plant-life with cuttings from her favorite flowers and trees to give to her family and friends. If she was inside her home, she was sewing clothes or baking for her children while watching classic movies or the Astros.... every single game.

Her children blessed her with seven grandchildren, all of whom she treasured. Each of their birthdays was celebrated with intricate custom cakes. All her

grandchildren are involved in many activities, so like with her children, Joanie was always at their events. She attended every singing showcase and theater play for her granddaughter, Brooke, and she was a mainstay at the baseball and basketball games for her grandsons, Michael, James, Leo and Luc; and, also, at Vivian's school/cheer events. She was also the first person to walk with Julian along the beach when he found his first seashell.

Joanie was a devout and faithful Catholic. She was a lector at her hometown church, Holy Rosary, as well as a Eucharistic Minister and was responsible for scheduling the ministries. She was a member of the Catholic Daughters, and active in the annual church bazaar.

Her love for travel never left her. She would accompany her children on the annual beach trip; she flew to the Czech Republic to see her ancestral home and visit her cousin Karel and his family, and she and Roger would annually take two trips: one to Colorado or Montana where they would fish, hike and watch meteor showers, and another to the Bahamas or Florida beaches where she would spend hours combing the beach for shark teeth, sand dollars and seashells.

Joanie's character was unimpeachable. After she and Mike parted ways, they stayed friends. They co-parented the kids, and he came to parties at her house. After they both remarried, both couples remained friends. When her children would bring a school friend home who didn't have stable housing, Joanie would make sure that the friend knew they had a home with her.

She loved her daughter-in-law and sons-in-law like her own. In Joanie's eyes all her family were loved unconditionally.

Joanie wanted the people she loved around her, so she and Roger hosted

river trips three times a year. Everyone was invited. A usual float trip down the cool Guadalupe River would include over thirty people. Afterward our adventure down the river, we would all head back to camp for dinner and friendship around the campfire. If someone coming to the river party was vegan, she made sure to have vegan options. If someone had a food allergy, she made sure they were accommodated. Joanie even asked everyone, coming to thanksgiving, what they wanted for desert, and she made each one from the heart.

To say that the cup of her life was full would be an understatement. Joanie was the never ending spring of water that filled so many of us with her love, time and knowledge. She was the life source that kept so many of us nourished, and for that, we are all eternally grateful.

She is preceded in death by her father Joseph Stryk, her mother Wilma Stryk, and her brother Mike Stryk. She is survived by her loving husband, Roger Rethlake, her children: Shaun Griffin and wife, Kelly; Nicole Arizpe and husband, VJ; Natalie Scott and husband, Steven; Patrick Griffin, and her grandchildren: Michael, Brooke, James, Leo, Vivian, Luc, and Julian: and her brothers Pat Stryk and wife Eve, and Mark Stryk and wife Debbi.

Visitation will begin at 5:00 p.m. followed by a Rosary at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, January 23, 2025 in the Chapel of Davis-Greenlawn Funeral Home in Rosenberg.

The Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 1:30 p.m., Friday, January 24, 2025 at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Rosenberg. Burial to follow at Greenlawn Memorial Park in Rosenberg.

Tributes and words of condolence may be left for the family at [www.davisgreenlawnfh.com](http://www.davisgreenlawnfh.com).

Arrangements are under the direction of Davis-Greenlawn Funeral Home,  
3900 B.F. Terry Blvd. (Hwy 59 South @ FM 2218), Rosenberg, Texas 77471,  
Phone: 281-341-8800.

# Cemetery Details

## Greenlawn Memorial Park

3900 B.F. Terry Blvd.  
Rosenberg, TX 77471

# Previous Events

## Public Visitation

JAN **23**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Davis Greenlawn Funeral Chapels and Cemeteries  
3900 B.F. Terry Blvd.  
Rosenberg, TX 77471  
(281) 341-8800

*\*There will be a Rosary at 7:00 p.m.*

## Funeral Mass

JAN **24**. 1:30 PM (CT)

Holy Rosary Catholic Church  
1416 George St. Rosenberg, TX US 77471  
Rosenberg, TX 77471

# Tribute Wall

ND

“ I agree with all the memories of Joanie all her friends have written. But the best tip I ever got from Joanie, was actually one she gave me from Roger. Whenever you were capturing and rehoming a raccoon, make sure you spray painted a big “x” on its back so you know it hasn’t returned to your house because he missed you. Which I have done ever since Joanie gave me that tip. Thanks to both of you. Love ya Joanie.

Nancy Dunlap - February 07, 2025 at 11:15 PM

RB

“ My sincere condolences to Joanie’s family.

Rick Baudoin - January 26, 2025 at 09:16 AM

KR

“ Yep, so so special. And I mean dating way back there. For me the memories start in high school....Lamar Consolidated. She was one of the do it all's way back then. You know... someone you could count on and would take responsibility. In more modern times she made every high school reunion. Heck, she was one of the leaders that pulled it together. Not much way to replace her other than committing to her drive, helpfulness and wonderful personality. - Ken Robinowitz

Ken Robinowitz - January 25, 2025 at 06:14 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.

January 24, 2025 at 12:51 AM

GO

“ Joanie,  
You will be forever missed as our dearest best friend.  
So many memories Like the many trips to the river. People in their  
RV's shouting “those tent people family is here again” when we all  
arrived. You up early making breakfast for everybody. And every kid  
their own air fan.  
Standing in the kitchen-door with a hot hair blower, warming Roger  
and my hands attempting to set up Santa's gift to Patrick, a swing  
set with hundreds of nuts bolts in freezing 2AM Christmas eve  
weather.  
Assisting me in my darkest hours of need.  
Always giving and giving.  
You will be missed a lot. Heaven doors are wide open to you.  
Thank you Joanie !!!

Rob & Theresa Loos

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goossen - January 23, 2025 at 10:03 PM

RR

Thanks Rob and Theresa - You will always fill a warm spot in our  
families' hearts.

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Roger Rethlake - January 25, 2025 at 06:11 AM

CK

“ Chris and Veronica Kleinsteuber purchased the B  
lue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of JoAnn  
Stryk Griffin Rethlake.



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Chris and Veronica Kleinsteuber - January 23, 2025 at 09:22  
PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.



January 23, 2025 at 08:41 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.

January 23, 2025 at 08:41 PM



“ Your HCDE Family purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.



Your HCDE Family - January 23, 2025 at 04:58 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.



January 23, 2025 at 12:53 PM

RH

“ RobTheresa Johnathan Claire Robin Hannah purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.



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**RobTheresa Johnathan Claire Robin Hannah** - January 23, 2025 at 12:15 PM

RH

“ RobTheresa Johnathan Claire Robin Hannah planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.

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**RobTheresa Johnathan Claire Robin Hannah** - January 23, 2025 at 12:15 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.



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January 23, 2025 at 12:02 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.

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January 23, 2025 at 12:02 PM

GH

“ *Garett Harris and Suzette Harris purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.*



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**Garett Harris and Suzette Harris** - January 22, 2025 at 05:34 PM

MF

“ *Michelle Najar and family purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.*



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**Michelle Najar and family** - January 22, 2025 at 04:19 PM

JR

“ *Johnnie R. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.*

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**Johnnie R.** - January 22, 2025 at 02:10 PM

TB

“ *Terri, Michelle and Brandon purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.*



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**Terri, Michelle and Brandon** - January 22, 2025 at 01:49 PM

TB

“ Terri, Michelle and Brandon planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.

Terri, Michelle and Brandon - January 22, 2025 at 01:49 PM

LA

“ Laura Aguirre purchased the Rose Garden Heart for the family of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.



Laura Aguirre - January 22, 2025 at 03:50 AM



“ Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.



January 21, 2025 at 01:06 PM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.

January 21, 2025 at 11:46 AM

HA

“ Hank & Alice purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.



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Hank & Alice - January 20, 2025 at 12:29 PM

HA

“ Hank & Alice planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.

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Hank & Alice - January 20, 2025 at 12:29 PM

GK

“ What a beautiful testament to an equally beautiful and angelic lady!! She was a force in life on this earth and will continue her work in the next and ever lasting one as she sits with her heavenly family, whole again. She was my mentor at HCDE, and I am a better person for having known her. I'll never forget her sharing her secret to calming anxiety. She'd place her hand on her chest and breath in. I still do this today. God speed Joanie.

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Gayle Kimball - January 20, 2025 at 12:21 PM

RR

Thanks Gayle

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Roger Rethlake - January 25, 2025 at 06:13 AM

AF

“ Arizpe Family purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.



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Arizpe Family - January 19, 2025 at 04:01 PM

AF

“ Arizpe Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.

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Arizpe Family - January 19, 2025 at 04:01 PM



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.



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January 18, 2025 at 10:01 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.



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January 18, 2025 at 12:19 PM

MR

“ *Michael Robles purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.*



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**Michael Robles** - January 17, 2025 at 03:24 PM

CB

“ *Cheryl Brock purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.*



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**Cheryl Brock** - January 17, 2025 at 01:49 PM

ED

“ *Elvira D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.*

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**Elvira D.** - January 17, 2025 at 02:10 AM

ED

“ Joanie was such a special woman. She was strong, dynamic, positive and kind. But she was so much more because she cared. While she was at Adult Education, she made us feel like family. We worked hard at our jobs but we also enjoyed fun times, celebrating weddings, baby showers and sharing our sorrows in hard times. Even after I left Adult Ed, she kept in touch and reached out when my Kelly passed. I hold beautiful memories from our conference trips. A beautiful soul has gained her wings. My deepest condolences to her lovely family.  
Elvira Dixon



Elvira Dixon - January 17, 2025 at 02:07 AM

RR

Thanks Elvira!

Roger Rethlake - January 25, 2025 at 06:14 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.



January 16, 2025 at 12:52 PM



“ A Full Life was purchased for the family of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.



January 16, 2025 at 10:43 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.

January 16, 2025 at 10:43 AM



“ Mario Villafranca purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.



Mario Villafranca - January 15, 2025 at 07:08 PM



“ Mario Villafranca planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.

Mario Villafranca - January 15, 2025 at 07:08 PM



“ She was a beautiful, kind and caring person. I worked with her at HCDE. God bless her family.

Carol Vaughn - January 15, 2025 at 05:15 PM



“ The Scott Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of JoAnn Stryk Griffin Rethlake.



The Scott Family - January 15, 2025 at 04:19 PM