



Jane Bell

June 6, 1938 - August 13, 2017

Jane Huggins Bell, known universally as “The Queen,” and “Mama Jane” by her grandchildren, passed away peacefully on August 13, 2017, with her beloved husband J at her side at their home in Searcy.

Jane was born June 6, 1938, in Slaton, Texas, to Fred and Laura Huggins. She was a proud graduate of Little Rock Central High School, and it was in Little Rock where she met a young medical student who became the great love of her life. She and J Bell married in 1960 and shared almost six decades together before her death.

After several years living in Quanah, Texas, Jane and J moved to Searcy in 1969, where they raised three sons. Despite her royal status, Mama Jane taught her sons how to water ski, allowed for all manner of pets from ducks and rabbits to dogs, snakes and gerbils, and endured countless football practices, tae kwon do tournaments, bicycle ramps, and impromptu afternoon parties at their home near Searcy High School. Needless to say, Mama Jane was thrilled to welcome girls into the family as daughters-in-law and grandchildren.

Her beloved grandchildren loved staying at Mama Jane's house, where anytime was a good time for donuts and ice cream, or exploring treasures in the attic, and boxer shorts were recognized as an acceptable alternative for

seersucker suits at church. Kelsey, Julia, Ian, Elliott, Johnny, Katy Jane and Bailey were her light and she was so proud of them, as they were of Mama Jane.

She brought style, happiness and laughter to everything, whether dancing on a table in a Munich Hofbrau or dancing with J on the White House lawn. Mama Jane will be remembered for her feisty sense of humor, her quick wit, and her love of J, her family and her friends. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Searcy Junior Auxiliary and the CT chapter of PEO. Her Friday lunch group and Bridge Club comprised a legendary group of Searcy women, all of whom loved her as much as she loved them. "Boats, planes and trains, Honey she saw everything, all the way from Hollywood to Nashville" and although she never did catch up with Johnny and June Cash during their stay in Fairfield Bay, her beloved condo at the lake was, as one friend put it, a place where many "heartaches, dreams and secrets were shared."

Left to cherish her memory are her husband Dr. John E. "J" Bell; her brother Rowe Huggins; sons, Brad (Michelle Bond); Jack (Amy Bell); and John (Lindsey Bell); her grandchildren; and many special nieces and nephews. Brad was steadfast in his care for Jane in her last days and the rest of her family appreciates his love and devotion. The family also wishes to extend its heartfelt thanks to the people of Arkansas Hospice and particularly Sonia Dry, her Hospice nurse who won Jane's heart with her kindness and love during the last few weeks. The family will receive visitors at the home Tuesday evening. Service 2 pm Wednesday at the First Presbyterian Church of Searcy with reception to follow.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG **16**. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
400 West Arch Avenue
Searcy, AR 72143

Tribute Wall



“ I live in Ohio but I used to live in Arkansas and worked for Dr. Bell at White County Hospital back in the 1970s. I was so sorry to learn of Jane's death. I hope it helps all of you to know many people care about you, and share in your loved ones passing. Dr. Bell, to you personally I am so very sorry you have lost your wife. I lost my husband 8 years ago, and there is nothing that can erase that deep hole in your heart. I pray you have many wonderful memories to sustain you. My thoughts are with you. Betty Albright-Bistrow

Betty Miller Albright - February 24, 2018 at 06:48 PM



“ So very sad to hear about Jane's passing. Memories of times spent with Jane and J were fun and memorable. It is rare to read an obituary and laugh out loud, but I did, as I read the line from the poem/song I wrote 40 years ago while staying in the Bell's condo at Fairfield Bay. What precious memories of an extraordinary lady. Peace and blessings to the family!

Donna Austin - August 18, 2017 at 06:33 AM



“ Jane and I have been friends for 40 years. There are beautiful memories of our times together. I will miss her more than words can say. I know she is at peace and with many friends and family. RIP my sweet friends. I love you.

Judy Maddox

Judy Maddox - August 16, 2017 at 07:38 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jane Bell.*



August 15, 2017 at 07:52 PM



“ *Brad, Jack, John, and Dr. Bell, Each of you are in my thoughts and prayers for God's comfort and peace now and in the days to come. My heart is breaking for you all. She is one of the very sweetest ladies that I have known and Heaven has certainly gained a very special Angel. God Bless you all.*

Marquita Teague - August 15, 2017 at 05:38 PM



“ *Beautiful Whisper was purchased for the family of Jane Bell.*



August 15, 2017 at 04:56 PM



“ *Radiology Associates, P.A. purchased the Sapphire Skies Bouquet for the family of Jane Bell.*



Radiology Associates, P.A. - August 15, 2017 at 02:41 PM

LR

“ I love you, Aunt Jane. I will miss you. I remember all the stories I heard growing up. The home movies from GG of you practicing your cheers in the front lawn are priceless. You always were and always will be the "star of the show".

I love you,

Mandy

Laura Rhodes - August 15, 2017 at 02:10 PM

DG

“ I, along with so many others, will always be grateful to have had Jane as my "other mother." I have so many good memories growing up across the street in Lambert Terrace as well as trips to the Bay. To paraphrase another fan of Jane's: "she was quite a force."

Love you and miss you,

Darron Gentry

Darron Gentry - August 15, 2017 at 02:01 PM

MD

“ Mark and Anna Dunnam purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Jane Bell.



Mark and Anna Dunnam - August 15, 2017 at 01:54 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Jane Bell.*



August 15, 2017 at 01:54 PM



“ *Dr and Mrs Dennis Bennett purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Jane Bell.*



Dr and Mrs Dennis Bennett - August 15, 2017 at 11:43 AM



“ *Heart's Companion Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jane Bell.*



August 14, 2017 at 11:25 PM



“ *J, my heart breaks for you and your family. Jane was such a bright light. My fondest memories were of her singing with Red and many others around my piano at dinner parties. Especially the Wonderful parties at your house. Please know I loved her and am praying for you and your family. May the peace of God be with you all.*
Mitch Ellenburg

Mitch Ellenburg - August 14, 2017 at 11:00 PM

PD

“ John and Lindsey: I am so sorry for your loss. Although I didn't know Ms. Jane, I can tell from her picture that she was full of life and love. My prayers will be with you and your children as you face the next few days, months and years without her. I am thankful for the many wonderful memories you have as you shared in the obituary.

Love and prayers. Pam

Pam Daniels - August 14, 2017 at 06:49 PM

SR

“ I'm so sorry for your loss - she was one of a kind! Your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Shay Wilson Raycher

Shay Wilson Raycher - August 14, 2017 at 06:24 PM

AB

“ Jane was like a second Mother to me. We had lots of fun times and great memories together! I Love You Jane!
Amy



Amy Bell - August 14, 2017 at 06:01 PM

RM

“ Jane was such a sweet genuine person who will be missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Rowan and Cecelia McLeod - August 14, 2017 at 05:21 PM

 Sonia
Dry

“ *Mr. Bell so sorry for the loss of Mrs Jane. I am glad to have known such a wonderful women. Prayers of comfort to you and your family.*

Sonia Dry - August 14, 2017 at 04:49 PM

WN

“ *J and family,*

We are saddened to hear about the passing of Jane. May God's blessings be with you all during this time, as well as the days that are in front of you.

"Precious memories are not forgotten."

*Your friends from years gone by,
Wendell & Gail Nier
The Villages, Florida*

Wendell Nier - August 14, 2017 at 04:20 PM

RR

“ *John,
Sorry to hear of your mom's passing. She was a very sweet & kind person.*

*God Bless You & Your Family,
Rachel Simmons Wilson Romine*

Rachel Simmons Wilson Romine - August 14, 2017 at 03:55 PM



“ *John, you're the only one I really knew, and you have my deepest condolences.* ”



Leah Brooks - August 14, 2017 at 03:12 PM

FD

JOHN AND FAMILY, JANE WAS A PRECIOUS LADY AND WILL BE DEEPLY MISSED. FRANCHELLE DENNIS

FRANCHELLE DENNIS - August 14, 2017 at 03:49 PM

KF

*Dr. Bell,
So sorry to learn of the passing of your wife. You and your family will be in our thoughts and prayers.
Unity Health-Harris OR Staff*

Kimberl Fletcher - August 14, 2017 at 04:08 PM

MA

*J, I am sorry to learn of the passing of Jane. I loved playing bridge with her for many years. She was a spark of energy. I can't think of words to express my feelings. She was a friend always and I will miss her.
Prayers for the family. Mary Ann Arnett*

Mary Ann Arnett - August 14, 2017 at 09:45 PM