



## Virginia Joan Helms

March 25, 1939 - December 16, 2018

Virginia “Joan” Waddill Helms passed away in Little Rock, Arkansas on Sunday, December 16, 2018. She is survived by her children, Dee Anne Helms Palmer (Mike) of Glen Allen, Virginia and Russ Franklin Helms (Linda) of Brisbane, Australia, her grandchildren, Nicole Reece Mount (Eric) of Searcy, Arkansas, Tyler Reece of West Chester, Pennsylvania, Meredith Palmer of Glen Allen, Virginia and Caroline Palmer of Glen Allen, Virginia, her great-grandchildren, Reece Mount, Chloe Mount and Anderson Mount of Searcy, Arkansas and many other relatives and friends. She is predeceased by her husband of 55 years, Boyce “Dee” Helms (1937-2015). Joan was born in Grubbs, Arkansas on March 25, 1939 to Norman and Vada Waddill. She graduated from Newport High School in 1957. She went to Harding University and Arkansas State College. She worked at the Farm Drive Inn when she was home in Newport. That’s where she met Boyce Dee. For him, it was love at first sight. For her, not so fast. He did eventually win her over and they married on August 9, 1959. They moved to Fayetteville, where she worked as a telephone operator while Boyce was in graduate school at the University of Arkansas. Dee Anne was born in 1961 in Fayetteville. Upon completion of Boyce’s Master’s degree, the family moved to Milton, Florida. In 1964, Russ was born and completed the family of four. In approximately 1967, the family moved to West Helena, Arkansas where Joan attended Philips County Community College and received her degree as a Registered Nurse. Then a couple of years later they returned to Milton, Florida and Joan worked as an

RN at the Santa Rosa County Hospital. Her favorite place to work was in Labor & Delivery. In 1973, they moved to Houston, Texas where Joan worked as a hospital nurse and then a school nurse. In 1979, they moved to Benton, Kentucky where they spent the next 34 years. Joan worked as a hospital nurse and eventually went back to college at Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky. She obtained her BA and became an elementary school teacher. She spent many years working in the Marshall County Schools, first as a teacher and later as a guidance counselor. Boyce and Joan made friends and served the Lord wherever He called them. They served on many mission trips and were very active in their congregations and communities. Kentucky became home and they missed it sorely when they moved to Searcy, Arkansas in 2013. Joan was able to live at Harding Place for two years, thanks to the wonderful people that worked there and the caregivers that did an amazing job of taking care of her. She lived her last days at Avenir Senior Living in West Little Rock. She was well cared for by the staff there. Despite the pain and fog of Alzheimer's, Joan always remembered her heavenly Father. She was not afraid because she knew she was never alone. She lived by this verse in Isaiah, "For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear, I will help you."

Visitation will be at the Powell Funeral Home in Searcy on Tuesday, December 18 from 4:00 until 6:00 pm. Graveside service in Walnut Grove Cemetery in Newport, Arkansas on Wednesday at 10:00 am.

# Cemetery Details

## Walnut Grove Cemetery

North Magnolia Street  
Newport, AR

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 18. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Powell Funeral Homes - Searcy  
2602 W. Beebe-Capps Expy  
Searcy, AR 72143  
(501) 268-7220

## Graveside Service

DEC 19. 10:00 AM (CT)

Walnut Grove Cemetery  
North Magnolia Street  
Newport, AR

# Tribute Wall

RK

“ I remember Uncle Dee and Aunt Joan visiting often with my Mom and Dad. Prayers go out to her family especially Russ and Deeanne.

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**Rodney Kooiman** - December 18, 2018 at 08:28 PM

GH

“ My main memory of her is that she always had a smile on her face. My condolences to Dee Anne, Russ, and the rest of the family.  
Greg Helms

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**Greg Helms** - December 18, 2018 at 03:30 PM

MJ

“ As you can imagine, my memories of Joan go way back. Even before she and Dee married, she took care of me like a sister. She loaned me a prom dress (which she had made) for my Junior prom. I went to Memphis with her (we visited her beloved Aunt Verby) and we bought material for bridesmaid dresses and her wedding dress (which she also made). She paid for all this, probably, from working at the phone company as an operator. When I was pregnant, she loaned me maternity clothes (also made by her). We loved her dearly and are so glad that she is at home with her family and her Saviour. She will have that "lost" look no more. Oscar & Marisue Jones

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**Marisue Helms Jones** - December 18, 2018 at 02:07 PM

DS

“ I worked with Boyce for many years and knew Joan through the Marshall County School system. She was a wonderful teacher and counselor. I hope that her family finds peace and comfort in remembering her life and the good things that she did.

*Diane Siekkinen - Calvert City, KY*

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**Diane Siekkinen** - December 18, 2018 at 11:08 AM

VG

“ Dee Anne and Russ - I have such fond memories of both of your parents. Your mom was always a vision of grace and class. Your dad always made me smile. My heart breaks for and with you both.

*Dee Anne - I smile to this day when I recall the day at your grandmother Vada's house when we decorated your Uncle Ronnie's car. Your mom walked out and just shook her head at us.*

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**Vickie Gillespie** - December 18, 2018 at 10:21 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Virginia Joan Helms.



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December 18, 2018 at 09:54 AM



“ *Rose Impression Casket Spray was purchased for the family of Virginia Joan Helms.*



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December 18, 2018 at 03:09 AM



“ *I want to send my condolences and to say to say that Evelyn and I had a lot of good times with Joan and Dee.*

*I send my love.*

*Tommy Helms*

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**Tommy helms** - December 17, 2018 at 08:24 PM



“ *Dee Ann and Russ, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families. We hope you find peace knowing she has found her peace and is at rest.*

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**Scott and Marsha Jones** - December 17, 2018 at 07:58 PM

KB

“ Aunt Joan had the love and respect of her own family as well as her sister, all of her brothers, and her nieces and nephews. I have no doubt that Dad (Robert) would have been there to honor her and her family and offer love, prayers, and a hug. What a blessed reunion they had in heaven! I remember many times that she and Uncle Dee drove to Arkansas to care for her mother, to see other family, or to just enjoy a trip together. Aunt Joan had a great laugh that cheered up everyone in the room. My prayers go to Dee Ann and Russ and their families. May the peace of God that surpasses all understanding guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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**Kelly Waddill Bishop** - December 17, 2018 at 06:04 PM

AR

“ Mrs. Joan was a very loving woman I took care of her at Harding Place. She was not just my client but was more like family as well as her children and grandchildren. I will forever miss our walks and our conversation, going out to eat at Chick-fil-A but mostly her laugh and smile. Heaven has truly gained a beautiful angel. My thoughts and prayers are with her family, friends and all that knew her.

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**Amanda Reed** - December 17, 2018 at 02:25 PM