



Joy Thornbury Kirkland

June 30, 1934 - January 8, 2024

Joy Thornbury Kirkland, 89 years old, formerly of Mouthcard, KY, peacefully passed surrounded by her family Monday, January 8, 2024 in Gainesville, GA. She is survived by her loving husband of 63 years, Robert S Kirkland of Gainesville, GA, daughter Susan (David Martucci) of Lynden, WA, son Richard (Donna) of Woodstock, GA, and youngest son David (Holly) of Sugar Hill, GA.

Joy was preceded in death by her mother Fonn Belcher, her father Glen Thornbury, and her grandson Aaron Kirkland of Sugar Hill, GA.

Joy was blessed to be called “Grandma” by her surviving grandchildren Jennifer Martucci of Blaine, WA, Katherine Martucci of Lynden, WA, Kristen Thomas of Phenix City, AL, and Abigail Kirkland of Woodstock, GA.

“Grandma” was officially made “Great” by the births of Johnathon Collins and Keigan Phillips, both of Phenix City, AL.

Joy was living and working in Augusta, Georgia at the Savannah River Plant as an executive assistant, and it was there that she met and fell in love with Robert Kirkland. After several years of dating, they were married in 1960 at the First Baptist Church in Augusta, GA.

The happy couple decided to leave Augusta and move to Atlanta to start their

own family. Joy took her role as wife, mother, and homemaker seriously and thrived with her “Darling Bob” by her side. She was creative and whimsical, which was evidenced in her wonderfully maintained garden and in her home filled with art. Joy had a keen eye to see the beauty in ordinary items and turn them into things of delightful curiosity.

With their children grown, she and Bob decided to spend their golden years in Gainesville, GA at Lanier Village Estates, where they enjoyed 12 years together experiencing retirement and a simpler life. They enjoyed gathering with friends for dinner, going to plays and musicals, and playing card games. Joy was a light to all with an easy smile on her face and a twinkle in her eye. She was loved beyond measure and will be missed greatly by the many who knew her.

A Celebration of Life ceremony will be held at Lanier Village Estates this spring, details to be announced at a later date.