



Jo Ann Bennett

April 26, 1941 - May 29, 2025

She brought beauty, warmth, and joy to every season of life.

JoAnn Bennett, age 84, passed away on May 29, 2025, in Ocala, Florida, following a 12-year journey with Alzheimer's disease, which she met with unwavering grace and quiet strength.

She was born on April 26, 1941, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and was raised in Denton,

Michigan. She was the beloved daughter of Cleo A. Shoemaker and Gilbert Jones.

She married Gordon F. Bennett III on May 16, 1964, in Belleville, Michigan, and together they shared 61 years of life, family, and adventure.

JoAnn attended college for secretarial studies and dedicated much of her life to caring for

her family as a homemaker. Over the years, she also held various roles including secretary, private caregiver, Weber sales associate and receptionist at a law firm.

She participated in a variety of community activities over the years, including involvement

in the local garden club, bridge club, social gatherings, and neighborhood traditions such

as holiday parades and seasonal festivals.

Her family, especially her children and grandchildren, were the center of her world. She

held many roles in her life, but to her children, she was—and always will be—the best mom.

In the world. Affectionately known as “Baba,” she embraced every moment with her

grandchildren—laughing, playing, and creating memories they’ll cherish forever. She had a

passion for gardening and making things beautiful, especially at the family’s lakefront

property, where her creativity brought color and joy each season.

She and her husband retired to Black River, Michigan, where they were long-time members

of the Lost Lake Woods Club, enjoying over 30 years of friendship, golf, and social

gatherings. They spent their winters in Ocala, Florida, where they have owned a condo in

the Live Oak Village (LOV) for over 50 years. Together, they traveled extensively taking

cruises, embarking on an RV adventure to Alaska, and exploring countless countries and

states.

JoAnn cherished life’s simple moments, from sunrises on Lake Huron to sunsets on the

Pacific Ocean. She noticed life’s quiet details and embraced the beauty in

ordinary moments. She had a gift for making people feel special and deeply loved baking for her family, especially her signature apple pies, chocolate chip cookies, and ginger snaps. Creative at heart, she found joy in arts and crafts, especially ceramics and making her own personalized greeting cards. She loved attending church and found deep comfort and joy in singing the old hymns that had carried meaning throughout her life. Favorites such as How Great Thou Art and In the Garden—especially when sung by Elvis Presley—brought her peace and enduring inspiration.

JoAnn is survived by her husband, Gordon F. Bennett III of Black River, Michigan; her daughter, Jodi L. Conti and her husband Thomas, and their daughter Teagan, of Carlsbad, California; her son, Gordon F. Bennett IV and his wife Lisa, and their children Gordon V, Taylor and Madison of DeWitt, Michigan.

She was predeceased by her brother, John (Johnny) H. Jones, her parents and her beloved Aunts and Uncles.

A Celebration of Life service for JoAnn is being planned in Ocala, Florida. The service will be held in late January or early February to allow her snowbird friends to attend with details to follow. A Michigan service is being planned but

the timing has not yet been determined.

For those who wish to do so, memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's, <https://www.alz.org> › get-involved-now › donate or the Association or the Alcona Historical Society Fund, <https://www.alconahistorical society.com>