

Janetta Ruth Lawrence (1934-2010)



Janetta Lawrence

On March 25, 2010, Janetta Ruth Lawrence passed away surrounded by her family who love her. She was born on Jan. 11, 1934 to George Gilbert Brown and Glenna Mae Raub Brown in San Bernardino, Calif.

Janetta lived in Del Rosa and Crestline before moving with her family to Barstow in 1943, where she **attended area schools**. She married Jack Lawrence on Aug. 27, 1950 and almost immediately began raising a family.

Janetta was a founding member of the Barstow Heights Hilltoppers, an organization instrumental in the development of Barstow Heights. She was a member of the Henderson Elementary School PTA, holding many offices over the years her children attended including President. The organization honored her with an honorary service award and life membership. She was also a scout leader and active member of the First Christian Church of Barstow. Before moving to Needles in the late 1980s, she worked for the Barstow Unified School District as a bus driver.

While in Needles, Janetta drove a school bus and opened Janetta's Ceramics. She became active in the Needles Chamber of Commerce, serving as its president and organizing city-wide clean up events. She was involved in the restoration of the railroad depot, serving on the board of the Friends of El Graces.

Jack and Janetta returned to Barstow in 2003 to be closer to family after Jack was stricken with cancer. After devoting her time caring for her husband through his illness, she became an active member of First Baptist Church of Barstow: She sang in the Not Done For Yet Choir, chaired the Bereavement Committee and was involved in the Caring Hearts Ministry. Janetta also enjoyed attending services at Helendale Community Church. She loved to travel and camp and instilled the passion for both in her family. Highlights in her travels were her trips to Australia and England where she had the opportunity to meet family on her father's side. She delighted in the times she could get the family together.

Janetta was preceded in death by her devoted husband of 53 years, John Malen Lawrence Jr.; grandson, John Malen Lawrence IV; her parents, George and Glenna Brown; and brother, John Wilford Brown.

She is survived by her brothers, Bert and his wife, Mona of Long Beach, and Bob and his wife, Donna of Chiloquin, Ore; sons, Jack and his wife, Debbie Lawrence of Wataga, Ill., and David Lawrence of Flagstaff, Ariz.; as well as Nehemiah Jackson, her dear friend; daughters and their husbands, Terry and Ed Rogers, Debbie and Drew Parker, Connie and Ken Courtney, all of Barstow; grandchildren, Steven and Val Rogers, Doug and Angie Rogers, Cory and Amber Lawrence, Desiree and Jimmy Gardner, Rhianna Lawrence, Paul, Kevin and Amanda Lawrence, Dwayne Rogers, Candice and L.J. Duffner, Brittany and Zackary Courtney, Donna and Brad Edwards, Marci Hostetter, Karie and Jason Alsop; great-grandchildren, Doug Jr. and Zoe Rogers, Cory Jr., and Eden Lawrence, Mikah and Mariah Gardner, Shane Rogers, John Lawrence V, Koby and Isabella Edwards, Logan Scott, Jason, Jacob, Seth and Kaleb Alsop, Genesis, Paul Jr., and Braeden Lawrence and Matthew Myers. She also left many nieces, nephews, and friends whom she loved dearly.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 3, 2010 at 2 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Barstow, 1320 Barstow Road. Donations can be made in Janetta's memory to The Friends of El Garces of Needles, Calif.

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