



Ms. Jo Ann Harrison

February 1, 1944 - February 25, 2024

On February 25, 2024, the Lord called home one of his angels, Jo Ann Harrison. Jo Ann was born on February 1, 1944 to the union of Napoleon and Dora Jane Harrison in Houston, Texas. She was the first born of four children. Jo Ann accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized by Pastor Elder C. V. Perry at Lighthouse Church (COGIC) in Houston, Texas in the 1950s.

Jo Ann attended Sunnyside Elementary and attended Worthing High School graduating in 1961 with distinguished honors. After she completed high school, she attended Prairie View A&M University in Prairie View, Texas where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Music in 1965. She later matriculated through Sam Houston State College in Huntsville, Texas where she received her Master of Education degree in 1967. Jo Ann was very intelligent, hardworking, and self-driven. After completing her bachelor degree, she became a teacher in 1965 in Huntsville Independent School District at Sam Houston Elementary where she worked for 5 years. Jo Ann later moved to Houston, Texas continuing her career in education where she worked in the Houston Independent School District at Miller Junior High School. Early in her career she maintained two jobs. In September of 1971, she began working in the summer time for Foley's Corporation. While working for the company, she received the Outstanding Young Women of America Award in 1976. Jo Ann received additional education and training at Texas A&M University and the University of Houston. Throughout her career she received many accolades

and awards. Jo Ann held many positions as an educator. She served as a reading specialist, staff development facilitator, administrator, science specialist, and her last long-standing position as a magnet coordinator. She served in the position of magnet coordinator at J. P. Cornelius Elementary from 1979 until she retired in 2018. Her career in education gave her opportunities to impact students and classroom instruction in so many ways. She worked as an educator for 50 years, educating, encouraging, empowering her students, and mentoring and shaping many teachers into quality educators. Jo Ann served her lifetime of excellence as a proud educator exemplified by successful programs and awards. She was known to many as the “Science Guru” who went above and beyond to ensure that all students received a quality education.

Jo Ann was a member of the most prestigious sorority. In 1981, she joined Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Suburban Houston Fort Bend Alumnae Chapter along with her 4-line sisters being the first line initiated through the chapter; their line was known as “The First Five”. She was also a member of many professional educational organizations including, but not limited to, Phi Delta Kappa, National Science Teachers Association, and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

Jo Ann is preceded in death by her parents: Napoleon Harrison and Dora Jane Harrison and her brothers: Napoleon Anthony Harrison, Wilbert Harrison and Alonzo Harrison, sister Bethel Harrison Rolla, and a very special aunt: Hattye Owens.

Jo Ann leaves to cherish her lifetime of memories to her sister Doris Cooper. Nieces: Portia Oliphant, Rosalind Hayes, Jessica Clark, Nyia Harrison, Jade Jones, Ursula Nuzzo, Leslie Harrison, and Ethel Sykes. Her nephews: Tony Oliphant, Aundray Rolla, Sr. (Dere), and Alonzo Harrison, Jr. Great niece: Cameron Smith (Caleb), Jasmine Oliphant, and great nephews: Dexter Smith

(DJ) Aundray Rolla, Jr., and James Abrom. Sister-in-law: Jean Harrison. Close cousins: Edward Owens, Rissy Owens, Trey Owens, Jo Ann Moore, Joyce Palmer Brown, Akiko Moore, Alana Pineset, and Justin Pineset. Friends: Carolyn Howard, Jeanne Jackson, Sarah Trotty, Glendale Horn, Dr. Bente' Gage, Leatrice Santee, Karen Higgins, Dorothy Mohammad, Irvin Randle, Norma Martinez, Jacquelyn Cook, Edwina Reese, and Marcus Bland. She leaves a host of cousins, extended family, and close friends. She will be remembered for her beautiful voice, her affectionate smile, and her dedication to serve others.

Cemetery Details

Paradise South Cemetery

Pearland , TX 77581

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 9. 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Signature Memorial Chapel
9202 Jensen Dr
Houston, TX 77093-6932
(713) 485-5400

Omega Omega Service

MAR 9. 8:30 AM (CT)

Signature Memorial Chapel - The Funeral Directors
9202 Jensen Drive
Houston, TX 77093
(713) 485-5400
signaturememorialchapel@gmail.com
<http://www.signaturememorialchapel.com>

Service

MAR 9. 10:00 AM (CT)

Signature Memorial Chapel
9202 Jensen Dr
Houston, TX 77093-6932
(713) 485-5400

Tribute Wall

BG

“Joanna and I worked on several academic projects together at Cornelius Elementary Magnet School, and were the “professional development script writer gurus!”
She is still missed! R.I.P!
Bente’ Gage - Former Cornelius Assistant Principal

Bente’ Gage - December 29, 2025 at 02:24 AM

BG

We were the professional development “queens” at Cornelius Elementary Magnet School! I wish I could “do it all over again,” because of JoAnna’s incredible, intellect, dedication, and the work ethics we shared together. R.I.P! 🙏🙏

Bente Gage - May 09 at 05:02 AM

BE

I’ll always miss you,
JoAnna! ❤️❤️

Bente’Gage-Brown - May 09 at 05:04 AM

BE

You will always”be in my heart!”👍💚❤️🙏

Bente’Gage-Brown - May 09 at 05:07 AM

BE

Thank you for being such a wonderful co- worker! I’ll never forget our “teamwork!”
Bente’ Gage-Brown

Bente’Gage-Brown - May 09 at 05:30 AM

BE

JoAnna Harrison
“Gone,” but ALWAYS
remembered in my heart! ❤️❤️

Bente’Gage-Brown - May 09 at 05:32 AM

UR

“ Our dear Aunt Joann, fond memories, endearing love will forever live on in our hearts. Truly missed never forgotten. Thank you for being such a blessing. Love Urs, Guy & Les



Ursula - March 05, 2024 at 07:58 PM

LI

“ Ms. Jo Ann Harrison,

In the two years that I was serving her, it was a great pleasure to have done it. Such a special lady with a heart of gold, even in the middle of life's storms, she always found a way out. I remember moments where we would spent laughing watching Chicago fire, and the time spent together has been a time of learning and reflection. I don't say goodbye but see you soon, rest in peace and I will always be grateful for your love towards me, and grateful to God for all those who took part in this journey that was so difficult for her. God never abandoned her, He always gave her a lot of blessings. I will always miss you señorita Jo Ann.

*My sincerest condolences to all friends and family during this time.
Blessings,
Lily*



Lily - March 04, 2024 at 09:04 PM



“ Aunt Dora and her brother (James W. Palmer, my dad) agreed to let my parents name me (Jo Ann Palmer) after you. My dad spelled our names differently, never knew why. You always reminded me when we were in the room together that you were #1 Joann and I was #2 Jo Ann. You will truly be missed Cousin Joann.

Jo Ann Moore - March 03, 2024 at 05:56 PM

DF

To the family of my fellow educator and mentor, Joanna inspired me to be the best science lab teacher ever. I learned so many techniques and strategies to improve the science program at my school and made me a better teacher. I will never forget how she took me under her wing and I began to fly in my science knowledge. My fondest memories were traveling to science conferences together and training teachers as a member of HU-LINC. She had a brilliant science mind. Rest in peace my friend.
Darren Simien Fisher

darren fisher - March 06, 2024 at 07:23 PM

SH

“ Jo Anna your Delta Linesisters will miss you but thinking back to when we pledged in 1981 you took the leadership position with Jeanne and with the ideas the two of you put together we were given the title “The First Five”. Thank you for being our Sister and a Delta D.E.A.R.S. Soror.
Sorors Carolyn Howard, Jeanne Jackson, Glendale Horn and Sarah Trotty ☐



Soror Carolyn Lee Howard - March 01, 2024 at 09:45 PM

BG

*Joanna, you are “still” missed! Respectfully,
Bente’ Gage*

Bente’ Gage - December 01, 2025 at 02:19 AM

BG

*Thanks for sharing your superior knowledge and creativity with
Cornelius Elementary as our Magnet Coordinator!*

Bente’ Gage - December 01, 2025 at 02:21 AM

SJ

“*Ms. Harrison was an educator who had a heart of gold and
compassionate about the education for children. I have never met a
person who lived and breathed her life for giving the very best to all
students. I will miss her dearly and know she is trying to teach in
heaven. Rest in Peace Joanna! 🙏🌹💔*
Sheila Jean

Sheila Jean - March 01, 2024 at 01:21 PM

DG

*Joanna and I worked SO WELL together at Cornelius Elementary
Magnet School, when she was the Magnet Coordinator, and I was the
Asssistant Principal with a school population of 1,200 students (at the
time). We also
“watched” “Chicago Fire,” (one of her “favorite TV shows), while on the
phone at LEAST twice a week; and enjoyed “reminiscing” about our
“Cornelius Days!*

*I will TRULY miss my “dear friend and colleague,” but I also know that
she is “organizing and revising” the educational program with the
angels in heaven. Thank you for the opportunity to know such a gifted
and talented person such as yourself!*

(The angels are “rejoicing” about your presence!”

Love ALWAYS!!! ❤️❤️

Bente’ Gage

Dr. Bente’ Gage - March 04, 2024 at 03:56 PM

KR

“ Ms. Harrison was truly one of a kind. You knew she was in the room because you felt her presence. Even if she wasn't in the room, she was near because you still felt her presence! There was a lot to learn from Ms. Harrison. It may not have all been "warm and fuzzy", but you learned and you didn't forget! I'll miss her wit, mental acuity and humor. She endured a lot in her lifetime, but she stood strong and had an impact on many generations. They don't make them like her anymore. Rest well Ms. Harrison....you deserve it.

Kathryn Riggins - February 29, 2024 at 02:44 PM

JJ

“ Dear Aunt Joann, many special memories have been shared between us throughout the years. You will be missed...Jade

jade jones - February 28, 2024 at 07:43 PM

DO

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dorothy - February 27, 2024 at 06:40 PM

DO

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dorothy - February 27, 2024 at 06:03 PM

DO

Ms. Harrison was a believer in celebrating the gifts of children! If you wanted to piss her off, do or say anything that demeaned or devalued a child...!

She was a loving and supportive friend! Irrespective of the number of times during the day that we spoke, she NEVER ended the call without reminding me of our time at Cornelius Elementary; she'd say, ...'Dorothy? You worried the HELL out of us about them boys, but they turned out to be wonderful young men'!

The tears that I shed at this moment are totally selfish because I will miss our heated discussions about politics, religion, how to raise MY GROWN CHILDREN, cooking...you name it, we engaged in RIGOROUS discourse about it! Sometimes, she even allowed me to BE RIGHT! 🤔👍👍

So long, Ms. Harrison! It has been a wild and adventuresome ride. Thank you for sharing your time, talents, gifts, brilliance, and most of all YOUR LOVE with The Muhammad Family; we are truly the RICHER for it!

*May ALLAH grant you eternal peace in paradise!
Ameen. Ashe. And so, it is. 🙏🙏*

Dorothy - February 27, 2024 at 06:36 PM

PL

Witty, intellectual, affectionate, committed, engaging, and perceptive, education was her passion -- it was an indelible part of her essence. Ms. Harrison was truly an amazing gift to the world and will be dearly missed. May her incredibly loving soul find peace in the embrace of God. You've done well!

Paul Elliott (Walgreens in Sugar Land) - September 02, 2024 at 06:41 PM