



Joyce S. Abbott

December 11, 1927 - December 5, 2015

Memorial Service: January 9th 2016 at 10:00 AM

The Church on Cypress
5709 Cypress Ave.
Carmichael, CA 95608

In Lieu of Flowers, please make contributions to The Church on Cypress/
Special Adult Ministry

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5709 Cypress Avenue
Carmichael, CA 95608

Born: December 11, 1927 in Berkeley California

Went to be with the Lord: December 5, 2015 (87 Years) after her fourth
recurrence of cancer

Survived by

Children: Claudia Wreyford, Kenneth Hole, Dennis Abbott, Janet Seely, Mark
Abbott

Grandchildren: Keith Hole, Lori Wreyford, Wendy Wreyford, Lydia Bell, Andrew Seely, Jennifer Seely, Michelle Nash, Rose Abbott

Great Grandchildren: Morgan and Ronan Bell

Cherished extended families included: Griffins, Gruens, Stangers, Smiths, Baums, Wreyfords, Tandys, and Lockharts

How impossible it is to sum up some peoples lives. It is especially difficult for those that have truly made a difference in the world they lived in and Mom did make a difference. When I started writing this I went through some of Mom's papers. I found a note I had written to her many-many- years ago. So long ago I didn't even remember writing it. It was exactly how I felt about her then and now. I'd like to share it with you.

"Mom,

I'm lost just trying to describe you. Growing up, you held us all together. I was never made to feel you gave up everything for me, but I never questioned you would. How can I thank someone who baked thousands of birthday cupcakes for my classes, picked up eyeballs from the slaughterhouse for my science class, founded a school for Autism when none existed to meet my brother's needs, when no group home existed for Keith, you raised funds and opened one, you loved me unconditionally when there was little to love, laughed and cried with me and never was too busy when I needed you. I never thought anything was beyond your capabilities. Usually, people grow up and realize how silly their beliefs about their Mom were. You have only continued to confirm mine. You remain in service to others daily. I still watch you rise to the impossible requests I make- making 100 four inch fortune cookies for a Cypress women's luncheon causing you to burn every single finger!!!. You have never let me down and my strongest desire is that in some way I have

shown you how much that means to me. Even more important, how incredible it is to see you and those wonderful traits passed on and living in my daughters. I couldn't admire or love you more. I thank God for the gift he gave me when he gave me you."

It's hard to believe I don't even remember writing this. Just a note slipped into a card so long ago.

Thanks for keeping it Mom.

Beyond her character, here are some interesting facts you may not be aware of:

- Her Grandfather was a sheepherder in Northern California when only Cattle families were welcome. This must be where she and all of the family get our spirit to conquer new territories and never accept-" you can't do that!"
- Born in Berkeley CA in 1927. She was born at home rather than in a hospital which I didn't find out until last week
- Raised by a single mother during the depression. This led to her being in a foster home for about a year
- She grew up working hard and having high expectations given to her. Still her Mother gave her a home where laughter and good humored fun were always present
- She had a flare for art in a time when only practical skills were encouraged or I think she might have been really accomplished
- In a small Lafayette High School she had an amazing PE teacher who also taught Modern Dance. No one had even much heard of Modern Dance at that time. Millicent Hamburger, her teacher, had been trained by, none other than, Isadora Duncan the "Mother" of Modern Dance. Mom was the lead in countless school productions. She was graceful beyond words. At mom's 60th High School Reunion, Millicent led the same girls (then 80 years old) in the

same dance routines much to Mom's horror

- She earned her degree from University of California at Berkley majoring in mathematics
- She had three children- Claudia Ken and Keith. Keith was severely Autistic. This also led to her love of the Special Adult Sunday School Class at The Church on Cypress
- When there were no services available to meet Keith's needs she with several other families founded the first school for Autistic children in Northern California. The national magazine, Parade, featured her efforts to raise awareness and gain services for these children
- She worked as a secretary for State legislators, as a legal secretary, and finally with the Sacramento Union Newspaper for 20 years as an executive secretary.
- She never wanted anyone to know she had been married three times. She said it sounded ridiculous and she felt like Zsa Zsa Gabor. She was married to my father, Robert Hole, for 25 years, Richard Baum for 24 years (He passed away in 1995), and at 73 married Norman Abbott. They had a wonderful 6 years before he too went to be with the Lord. She has loved and been loved.
- She loved and served her church family at Cypress: 8 years on the kitchen team, when that meant preparing dinner for 60-80 every Wednesday night; prayer chain member then chairperson for over 15 years; so many meals to those who were ill or grieving I can't count them; cookies for Vacation Bible School; member of the Joshua Sunday School Class where she loved and supported each member with her whole heart; firm commitment to missions and tithing; she always looked for a place to serve her Lord.

She left us all with big shoes to fill and standards we need to live up to. She shared herself completely with each of us. So when we feel lonely for her, we just need remember how she lived and loved then try to pass on those same qualities to those around us.

She will be missed by all who knew and loved her.



Tribute Wall

JS

“ I remember when Dad first called to tell me about a woman he had met at church. Her name was Joyce and he was obviously smitten. For the six years they were married until my father's death, she brought so much love and joy into his life, and she continued to be an important part of my life. She didn't want to be known as my stepmother, but just Mom. She wasn't trying to replace my mother, but she knew we had a family love connection, not just a legal connection. For all of you who know Joyce, I don't have to tell you what a remarkable woman she was. I was so fortunate to have a bonus mom for 17 years plus the family that came with her. I finally got a sister too! I will miss her greatly and my heart breaks for her children and grandchildren and all those who love her.

Janet Abbott Seely

Janet Seely - January 06, 2016 at 03:39 PM

MP

“ I met Joyce when we both were Pre-school parents, car-pooled together. It was a start of a wonderful friendship. I certainly profited from her great good-nature, as life happened to both of us. Haven't had as much contact in the last few years, but I will always love her as one of my most cherished friends.

Myrl Pardee - January 05, 2016 at 09:20 PM

PR

“ Dear Claudia and Family,



Both Sue and I want to send all our love and support to all of you on the passing of your beloved Mother, Grandmother, Aunt and Friend Joyce. We, too hold a very special place in our hearts for her.

Our first memories of her were as young girls when we, along with our Mom and Dad, Stewart and Elaine would visit She, Bob and the whole family. It was then that I fell in love with her laugh and merriment. I can still hear it to this day and will always cherish this about her soul.

Mostly what I loved about her was her unwavering love and friendship for our parents, Stewart and Elaine Millon. And, of course, her heart was so big that this caring was also bestowed to all of us Millons. Through our celebrations and challenges, Joyce remained steadfast in support of all of us. A true Angel as she walked this earth.

And, as the earth is smiling with her presence, so is our former property in Michigan.

Years ago, when Joyce, Betty and Elaine, were still very much enjoying eachother in their retirement years, my husband Jack and I wanted to honor their friendship. So, we planted 3 beautiful Noriegin Pines in a triangle at our home in Michigan. An earthly tribute to their beauty.

So now we raise our glass and toast to our Dear Friend, Joyce, who is now free to dance and laugh with her friends Elaine and Betty. Heaven can only be Rockin with the Three Amigos, aka The Golden Girls!

Blessings, Paula Roach and Sue Trites.

Paula & Jack Roach - January 05, 2016 at 01:11 PM

WB

“ Warren and I want to share with the family how much we enjoyed knowing Joyce and always loved her smile. We will miss her but know that she is now in no more pain and with our Lord. God bless you all.



Warren and Shyla Burch

Warren/Shyla Burch - December 28, 2015 at 02:11 PM

EK

“ Dear Claudia,

I recall when I first met your mom. Little did I know what a tremendous lady she was. When my mom wanted to introduce me to her life-long and dearest of friends, "Joyce," I knew then that your mom was someone very special! I can hear them laughing together, reminiscing about times past, and the years when they were separated for a long period of time. There they were, the 3 Musketeers - Joyce, Betty, and Elaine - kicking up their heels and enjoying every moment!

I have been mindful and prayerful for you and your family this Christmas season. That "first Christmas" without our moms is so painfully difficult, I know firsthand. May you feel God's loving embrace as you grieve. And just think how wonderful it was for our moms' to be celebrating Jesus' birthday right there next to Him... awesome!!

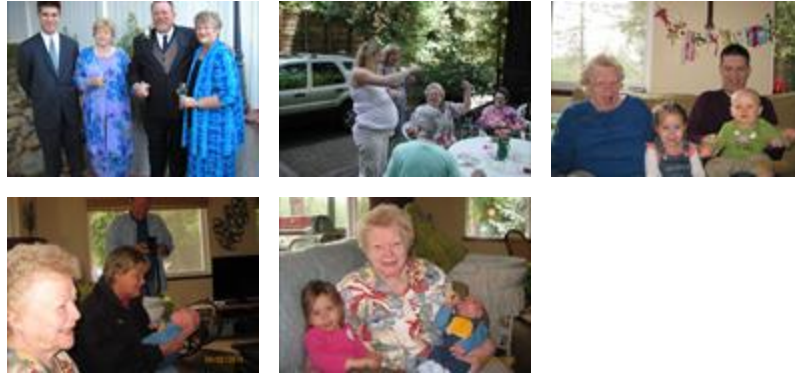
Love in our Lord Jesus,

Elli Kimbauer

Elli Kimbauer - December 28, 2015 at 07:16 AM

LY

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Lydia - December 26, 2015 at 09:45 PM

LY

Some great pictures of my grandma these last few years! she taught me so much and wish I could share more that portrayed how much love and guidance she taught me when I was young...more to come!

Lydia - December 26, 2015 at 09:52 PM

PT

“ *My heart-felt condolences to all of you. Joyce was a godly, lovely, gracious lady who had a heart for serving and ministering to others. Her concern and love were evident in the way she spoke and in the life she lived. She will be missed, but will be fondly remembered. My love to all of you. Peggy Tumlinson*

Peggy Tumlinson - December 23, 2015 at 12:44 PM

WE

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Wendy - December 18, 2015 at 05:46 PM

WE

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Wendy - December 18, 2015 at 05:18 PM

TD

“ *With Heartfelt Sympathy to the Abbott Family,*

May you rely on the God of all comfort to help you to endure the days ahead.

"God is for us a refuge and strength a help that is readily to be found during difficult times." {Psalms 46:1}

The Duncan's - December 17, 2015 at 09:45 AM

WW

“ 14 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Wendy Wreyford - December 15, 2015 at 04:13 PM