

Sue Johnson Obituary

Sue Patrick Johnson, often known as “Suzi” to her friends, long-time teacher, beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, died at Methodist Hospital on April 24, 2022. She was 86, although she would never want anyone to know!

Sue was born in 1935 in Waco, Texas, to Arthur and Ahava Patrick. The family, including her brother Sidney, lived in Mart. She graduated from Mart High School in 1954, and she then went to Baylor with her high school sweetheart, Gene Johnson. They met when eleven-year-old Sue walked into the Johnson family grocery store. She caught his eye because she was wearing a fur collar, and he eagerly walked her bags to the car for her. How fitting that Sue’s love of fashion would lead her to her great love - Gene.

Sue and Gene married in 1957 while they were college students. Sue then earned both her B.A. and M.S. in Elementary Education. Following her graduation, Sue taught in the Waco School system where she was one of the original teachers in the Head Start program and then a first grade teacher. For ten summers, Sue and Gene worked side by side at Camp Longhorn, and Sue often spoke about her fond memories running the Canoe Bay and riflery range. Their neighbors in Waco became their dearest friends, and they played bridge as often as possible.

Sue and Gene moved to Brownwood, Texas, after Gene received his doctorate from Baylor and began work as a professor at Howard Payne University. Sue taught at South Elementary School as a first grade teacher. Their daughter, Gara, was born in 1970, and Sue was grateful that Gara eventually attended the school where she taught. In Brownwood, Sue and Gene made friends who she would continue to love and cherish throughout her life.

After 13 years in Brownwood, Sue and Gene moved to Austin. Sue taught eight years at Round Rock ISD and instructed Gifted and Talented students from Grades 5-8. Following her retirement from public schools, Sue taught at Hyde Park Baptist School where Gene was the head of the Upper and Middle Schools.

Sue and Gene then relocated to Houston where they both worked at Second Baptist School. She taught second and third grade for ten years, and he was the Head of Upper School. Retiring after over 50 years of teaching and tutoring, Sue and Gene traveled all over the world, which was a special joy for them both. Her favorite activities in retirement were playing bridge with her dear friends, reading newspapers and books, and especially spending time with her much loved daughter, Gara, and granddaughters, Ella and Chloe West. The four of them cherished trips to New York, Boston, and Chicago, and Sue counted these as among her most precious memories.

Sue was one of a kind — an incredibly special person. She was a fashionista who could light up any room with her beautiful smile. She impacted thousands of students’ lives through her great passion for teaching, and many young people learned to read and write under her tutelage. Sue was full of excitement and life, and she never hesitated to let those around her know that they were “fabulous.” A lifelong Christian, Sue was a devoted Democrat who strongly believed in the rights and intrinsic worth of all of God’s children.

Sue is survived by her husband of 65 years, Gene, along with her daughter, Gara, and her son-in-law, Blake. She was blessed with two granddaughters, Ella and Chloe West. She loved her husband and daughter dearly, and her granddaughters were the light of her life.

Services will be held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 3816 Bellaire Boulevard, on Saturday, April 30 at 1 P.M.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Old Friends Senior Dog Sanctuary or Gulf Coast Planned Parenthood.