



## JoAnn G. Walker

March 3, 1937 - February 13, 2019

On Wednesday, February 13, 2019, JoAnn Walker, teacher, mother, sister, and friend passed away at the age of 81 years. JoAnn will be forever remembered by family and thousands of adoring students as a caring, dedicated and inspiring educator. A recipient of numerous teaching awards throughout her career, JoAnn was a student favorite at Gilchrist Elementary for three decades.

Born on March 3, 1937 to parents Delma Bowman Grout and Nicholas D Grout of Westlake, Louisiana, JoAnn earned her education degree from McNeese State College in 1959. A love of children immediately led her to the classroom. She moved to Tallahassee in 1972 with her husband and son.

In the post-Nixon years, JoAnn became influential in state politics on educational issues. She rose to prominence as a Florida State Republican Committeewomen and was elected as a National Delegate for two presidential conventions. Her wit and influence were instrumental in helping to draft and later nominate future President of the United States Ronald Reagan.

A skilled writer and storyteller, JoAnn delighted students with fables and tales from her small town upbringing. Teaching and serving others was the passion of her life. She retired from teaching in 2002. In later years, JoAnn maintained correspondence with past students and took great pride in their many accomplishments and achievements.

JoAnn is survived by her son Tommy Walker of Grand Rapids, Michigan; two sisters Nickie Grout Brewer of Westlake, La.; Gretchel Grout Ieyoub and husband Kalil of Lake Charles, La

A celebration of JoAnn's life will be held in her hometown of Westlake La. at a time to be determined. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Alzheimer's research at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org) in her name. We invite family, friends and past students to sign and share on JoAnn's online guest book located at [lifesongfunerals.com](http://lifesongfunerals.com)



# Comments

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“ I was very fortunate to have Ms. Walker as my 2nd and 5th grade teacher at Timberlane Elementary in the mid 70s. She was a wonderfully kind teacher and a beautiful lady both inside and out. She was my favorite school teacher and made a lasting impression on my life. She remains in my heart and memory to this day. Lisa (Rutledge) Leonard

**Lisa Leonard** - February 16 at 05:41 PM



“ Thank you, Lisa. there was nothing she loved more than being in the classroom.

**Thomas Walker** - February 17 at 12:06 AM



“ Both of our children were blessed to have Jo as their 4 th grade teacher at Gilchrist. I was a teachers aid and had so much fun - always filled with laughter. We remained in touch for many years - usually talking on phone for hours over Thanksgiving.Hated we lost touch and often wondered how she was doing. Hope her passing was peaceful. Loved her dearly/  
Lane Carroll

**Lane Carroll** - February 19 at 10:28 PM

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“ Jo was our next door neighbor from 1989 until she went to live at Westminister Oaks. She was like part of our family. She joined us many times for Thanksgiving and Christmas as well as Mother's Day. Such a beautiful lady. She taught my son-in-law at Gilchrist Elementary . My granddaughters often visited with her and would take her gifts. We were sad to hear of her passing. Our deepest sympathies for Tommy and for her sisters.

Becky and Mitch Hurlbut

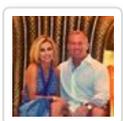
**Rebecca Sadler Hurlbut** - February 16 at 01:43 PM



“ Thank you Becky. She loved the neighborhood and everyone in it.

**Thomas Walker** - February 16 at 05:01 PM

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“ Ms. Jo Walker was my 5th grade teacher at Timberlane Elementary, and she was an incredible inspiration. She always had a smile and you could tell she loved making us all better students and better people. I still have vivid enjoyable memories from being around her in 1977, and I know she will be missed by still of us that she helped mold.  
- Hal Lewis

**Hal Lewis** - February 16 at 11:20 AM



“ Thank you Hal. She adored all of her students.

**Thomas Walker** - February 16 at 05:02 PM

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“ On February 13th, My hero, cheerleader, and champion left this world. Although Alzheimer's dimmed her few last years, it never diminished her spirit and love of teaching. I am so proud of her for giving so much to her students and for being the teacher who could inspire beyond what we thought possible. I love you, Mom.



**Thomas S Walker** - February 16 at 05:53 AM



“ Jo always had a winning smile and fun loving personality. She was one of my older cousins that I loved to spend time with. She will be greatly missed, but she is in a better place. Love you JoAnn. Peggy Jenkins

**Peggy Jenkins** - February 16 at 04:16 PM

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“ 14 files added to the album Memories Album

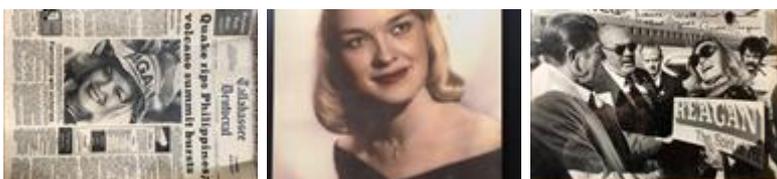


**Thomas S Walker** - February 16 at 05:24 AM

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“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



**Lifesong Funerals & Cremations** - February 14 at 03:11 PM