

Joanne Munsil Burnett

November 10, 1935 – July 9, 2025

Joanne Munsil Burnett passed away peacefully on July 9th, 2025, at the age of 89. A dedicated nurse, teacher, author, and loving wife, mother, and grandmother, Joanne led a life of service, compassion, and unwavering commitment to her faith, family, and profession.

Born in Phoenix, Arizona, Joanne was the third of seven children and a proud second-generation Arizonan. She attended Emerson Elementary School and graduated from North Phoenix High School, where she lettered in five sports and served as president of the Girls' Athletic Association.

Though Joanne was quiet by nature and never sought the spotlight, her brilliance was unmistakable. She taught herself to read well before first grade, and her intellect was evident in her ability to calmly manage the most difficult patients, solve advanced logic puzzles, and write articles so erudite they were later cited in medical textbooks.

Joanne earned her nursing diploma from Good Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing in 1957, where she was elected class president and received the Florence Nightingale Award for outstanding leadership and academic excellence, followed by a B.S. in Nursing from Arizona State University and two M.S.N. degrees from the University of California, San Francisco.

Over the course of her career, Joanne worked as a nurse and educator across the U.S. and abroad—including in Arizona, California, New Hampshire, Guam, Virginia, and Florida—often following her husband's Navy chaplain assignments. She held teaching positions at Arizona State University, Old Dominion University, and the University of Guam. Her pioneering work in pediatric and developmental nursing was published in the *American Journal of Nursing*.

Joanne was also the author of several books, including *Piaget's Babies, Take Charge! of Your Baby's Development*, *The Professional and the Hospitalized Child*, and *Granny Smith's Sudoku Solver*. She was known for her sharp intellect, quiet strength, and deep empathy for others.

Despite the challenges of Parkinson's Dementia in her final years, Joanne remained loving, witty, and engaged with those around her. She will be remembered for her deep devotion to family—including her 57-year marriage to her beloved husband Ivan—her nurturing spirit, and her ability to bring people together—from Grand Canyon rafting trips to family reunions and church activities.

Joanne was preceded in death by her son David Burnett, her parents Lee and Evelyn Munsil, Sr., and 4 of her siblings: Marilyn Stout, Bil Munsil, Lois Hunt, and Martha Mae Patterson. She is survived by her husband Capt. Ivan Burnett, Jr., CHC, USN; her son Daniel Burnett; her grandchildren Christopher Burnett, Jordan Burnett, Craig Burnett, and Fiona Burnett; and her two remaining siblings Lee Munsil, Jr., and Wesley Munsil.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to either of the following:

Prescott United Methodist Church

505 W. Gurley St.
Prescott, AZ 86301

ASU Foundation

Attn: Financial Services
P.O. Box 2260
Tempe, AZ 85280-2260

(Please note that gifts should be designated for **Edson College** and made **in honor of Joanne Burnett**)