



Janell Grant Palmer

December 8, 1935 - September 15, 2022

Janell Palmer, 86, of Jacksonville, Florida returned home to the Lord on September 15, 2022. Janell was born in 1935 in Canton, Texas. She graduated from Patti Welder High School in 1953.

Janell married William Arthur Gebhardt, Jr., a combat pilot who became a decorated Lt. Colonel in the Army Signal Corps. They traveled the world for decades during their time together, welcoming children Lisa Renee, Amy Leigh, and Mark Randall. She entered the workforce as a clerk typist at Fort Gordon in Augusta, GA. Janell became remarried to Army Major Jesse Eugene Palmer, moving to Edgewood, Maryland before relocating to Jacksonville, FL. Janell advanced to a senior role in the procurement department, where she was known for her highly effective negotiation skills and motivational leadership. Janell retired in 2003. She was beloved by colleagues, friends, and family. After her career, she spent more time with family, her beloved poodles, and pursuing hobbies including cooking, sewing, painting, and her weekly stained glass club, of which she was a member for over 20 years. She passed on her strong work ethic and love for creative hobbies to her children and grandchildren. Ever the matriarch, she hosted magical Christmas Eve celebrations that her children, grandchildren, and the growing ensemble of great-grandchildren looked forward to. Janell was preceded in death by her parents Yewel Lee Grant and Lorene Elizabeth McCaffity Grant, and her siblings Billie Grant, James "Butch" Grant, and Jeffrey Lynn Grant. Janell is survived by her children: Lisa Spock (Buck), Amy

Barber (Paul), and Mark Gebhardt; grandchildren: Andrew Nelson Spock, Kathryn Leigh Barber, William Patrick Barber, and Allison Paige Spock; and great-grandchildren: Amelia, William, Aezea, and Weston.

A memorial service will be held at Riverside Presbyterian Church on October 8, 2022, at RPC Memorial Garden at 10:30 with the internment of her cremains, then a reception following in Bittenger located at the church. Her final wish to spread kindness and love to all is requested to be honored and, in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to hospice or St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT 8. 10:30 AM.

Riverside Presbyterian Church

Tribute Wall



“ I was hoping to see your mom again after my last visit. She was a 2nd mom to me, always patient and kind. I loved talking to her about all her creative endeavors. She was a perfectionist at every craft from making jewelry to baking beautiful cakes. I miss you so much already, but I know she is with Jesus now, watching over us. I can see her smiling face at peace. She loved her family and I loved her very much. Rest now, Mrs. Janelle. This is not goodbye because we will meet again later down the road. All my love, Terry

Terry Wheeler - November 13, 2022 at 07:40 AM



“ Janel Grant Palmer

October 20, 2022 at 02:31 AM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Mark R. Gebhardt - October 16, 2022 at 06:15 AM



Mom would like the fact that I showed her nerves of steel both asleep during a hurricane and in her artwork.

Mark R. Gebhardt - October 16, 2022 at 06:19 AM



“ Mom never enjoyed posing for photos, so these captured images I have included are treasured (by me, not her)! And she would hate the fact that I included the photo at Memorial Park that was not professionally taken and does not show her at her best.

Mom's favorite things were the colors lavender and purple, Pistachio nuts, and sweet iced tea. She also loved angels, dragonflies, butterflies, and the smells of coffee and roses. Her smiles and laughs were contagious.

She was like a saint, having raised us children and her pet poodles in the most proper manner. She did an excellent job of being a sweet Southern mother, and my friends would agree because she was a second mom to many.

When I was young, she would not hesitate to "lubby-dubby" me while sitting in the rocking chair and calling me her little pink boy...LOL! I am certain that Amy and Lisa have equally treasured moments of pure love from her.

During our childhood, we knew she was angry when she said firmly, "I'm so mad I could spit" or when she would take her rat-tailed comb out at church and threaten to pop us on the hand (or when she ACTUALLY DID...OUCH!).

She quickly advanced to a high-tiered GS-12 position at NAS-JAX during her 27-year-long career in the Civil Service, and her peers, subordinates, and even the new base Commanders listened intently to her wisdom about contracting procedures and rules. Her proudest possession was the treasured framed Contracting Award honoring her special and valuable talents of negotiation and fulfillment of high-dollar naval purchasing contracts.

Mom was also an exceptionally talented artist and her favorite hobbies included Stained-Glass, Painting, Sewing, Cross-Stitching, Knitting, and Coloring art with Coptic markers.

The special stained-glass items she created were (in my opinion) her masterpieces, especially the Gators logo window with tiny pieces of white glass teeth that she made for me after graduating from the University of Florida.

She cannot be replaced or equaled. Ever.



Mark Gebhardt - October 07, 2022 at 05:54 PM