



Joan Marian Clay-Speaks

August 10, 1936 - February 24, 2025

Joan Marian Clay-Speaks passed away on February 24, 2025, at the age of 88 in McKinney, Texas. Born in Buffalo, New York, Joan was a beloved daughter, sister, mother, and cherished friend who touched the lives of many through her unwavering dedication to education and community service.

Joan was one of five siblings and grew up in a nurturing family environment that emphasized the importance of knowledge and compassion. A proud graduate of Buffalo State University, she devoted her life to teaching and inspiring young minds, mainly within Parochial Schools. Her commitment to education was complemented by her generous spirit, as she volunteered countless hours at the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, embodying the values of faith and service that she held dear.

Joan is survived by her loving children: Thomas Clay (Cynthia), Carol Laskowski (Andrew Holahan); daughter-in-laws, Judith Clay (Art Fernandez), and Leonilde Clay. She is also mourned by her dear sister, Eileen Ricci, 7 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and 4 step children who will forever cherish her memory.

Her remarkable life will be celebrated in a funeral service that will honor her legacy of love, hope, and service. A Mass of Christian Burial will occur on Saturday, March 1, 2025 at Nazareth Retreat Center, 1814 Egyptian Way,

Grand Prairie, TX, 75050. Burial will follow at Holy Redeemer Catholic Cemetery in DeSoto, Texas.

In her memory, let us carry forward her commitment to education and community, continuing to spread kindness and compassion as she had so beautifully done throughout her life.

Joan was preceded in death by spouses, David Clay and Billy Speaks; parents Edward & Mary Wilkins; sons, Lawrence David Clay and Richard Samuel Clay. Brother, Richard Wilkins & sisters Kathlyn Loper & Geraldine Smalley. Son-in law, Ronald Laskowski.

Cemetery Details

Holy Redeemer Catholic Cemetery

1500 S Westmoreland Road
Desoto, TX 75115

Previous Events

Mass

MAR 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Nazareth Retreat Center
1814 Egyptian Way
Grand Prairie, TX 75050

Graveside Service

MAR 1. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Holy Redeemer Catholic Cemetery
1500 S Westmoreland Road
Desoto, TX 75115

Tribute Wall



“ *Carli Crumb sent a virtual gift in memory of Joan Marian Clay-Speaks*



Carli Crumb - March 01, 2025 at 10:33 AM



Love you always and forever Mom We loved our time with Joan the conversations we had and the love she gave was just amazing

*To the family our prayers are with you
Love always Johnny and Carli Crumb*

Carli Crumb - March 01, 2025 at 10:34 AM



“ *: The Team!!! purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Joan Marian Clay-Speaks.*



: The Team!!! - February 28, 2025 at 01:13 PM



“ *: The Team!!! planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joan Marian Clay-Speaks.*

: The Team!!! - February 28, 2025 at 01:13 PM

DK

“ Donna Lee Loper and the Craigie kids purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Joan Marian Clay-Speaks.



Donna Lee Loper and the Craigie kids - February 27, 2025 at 12:47 AM

DK

“ Donna Lee Loper and the Craigie kids planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joan Marian Clay-Speaks.

Donna Lee Loper and the Craigie kids - February 27, 2025 at 12:47 AM

LC

“ Too many to choose, but when I was newly married to Richard, or "Ricky" as his family called him, Joan and I went every Tuesday to dollar movie night after work, and she said she said to me she feels like she's known me forever and was so happy I chose Ricky, it tickled me, I can see her face and her hugging on to my arm as we sat in the movie seats! Those were super happy times! ❤️

Leonilde Clay - February 26, 2025 at 09:34 PM

BL

“ I'll always remember Aunt Joan, who ALWAYS called me Barbie, as a fun, energetic and kind person. She was curious about others as she asked me questions about my life while being a great listener. She was definitely no nonsense and stern at times but never in a way that I perceived as intimidating. My parents adored her and so did I.

Barbara Lelli - February 26, 2025 at 08:44 PM

LC

“ *Love, Nilde & NC Clay's/Bickford's purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Joan Marian Clay-Speaks.*



Love, Nilde & NC Clay's/Bickford's - February 26, 2025 at
08:17 PM