



Joanna Kay Mathson

September 13, 1943 - April 20, 2026

Joanna Kay Butchart Mathson was born September 13, 1943, in Nampa, ID, to Wayne and Alice (Roberts) Butchart. She passed from this life into the presence of Jesus in her sleep on April 20, 2026, at Heritage Assisted Living and Memory Care in Twin Falls, ID.

Her first home was in Sparks, NV. As a pastor for the Church of the Nazarene, her father's calling took him on to churches in West Seattle, WA; Reno, NV; Mc Minnville, OR; Salem, OR; and Yakima, WA.

In 1961, Joanna graduated from Eisenhower High School in Yakima. That same year, she entered Northwest Nazarene College in Nampa, but, illness forced her to leave college. After she recovered, she began working in a pathology lab, learning how to prepare slides such as pap smears for examination.

Joanna did that for two years until the whole Butchart family moved to Los Angeles, CA, in 1964. On arrival, she checked the Yellow Pages and found a hospital with a pathology department. They hired her and also entered her into their training program to become a cytotechnologist, the one who screens the slides to see if they have cancer or other abnormalities. Her teacher said she was the best student she had ever had. At the same time, Joanna was getting her AA from a community college in order to become a certified cytotech. She found great satisfaction in her work of helping to fight cancer and did that for

the rest of her working life. In later years, she was the supervisor of several other cytotechs.

At Faith Center Church in Glendale, CA, Joanna met James Arthur Mathson, formerly a Marine paratrooper in Viet Nam. In December 1967, they married. Over a period of 3 years and 10 months, Eric James, Lee Dennis, and Lisa Christine were born. Joanna and Jim raised their children in the Auburn, WA area. Their marriage ended in divorce. In 2000, Joanna moved to Moses Lake, where she continued to work until retirement. She surrounded herself with rescued cats. Also, she attended Grace Harvest Church and was actively involved in an intercessory prayer group, praying for family, state, country and the world. She remained there until January 2025 when she needed 24-hour care.

Joanna was preceded in death by her brother, Dennis at age 19, her mother at age 71, her father at age 95. She is survived by her three children—Eric, Lee and Lisa Echterkanp; ten grandchildren – Alexandra, Malory (Justin Borthwick), Zechariah, Zoe, Emma, Molly Mathson; Mason, Carter, Ella Echternkamp; Emily Mathson (Justice Straub); five great-grandchildren – Timothy and Ezekiel Borthwick, Eliza and Rhys Straub, Shane Mathson; and her sister, Marcia Butchart.

Joanna was beautiful, smart, articulate, logical, hospitable, compassionate toward people and animals, faithful in prayer, and deeply devoted to God. She loved and created beauty. She will be deeply missed by those who love her.

Her funeral service will be Saturday, May 2 at 2:00pm at Kayser's Chapel, 831 South Pioneer Way, Moses Lake, WA. Graveside service will follow at Guarding Angels Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the care of Kayser's Chapel of Memories.

Cemetery Details

Guarding Angels Cemetery

2595 Road L N.E.
Moses Lake, WA 98837
(509) 765-7848

Previous Events

Funeral Service

MAY 2. 2:00 PM (PT)

Kayser's Chapel of Memories
831 S. Pioneer Way
Moses Lake, WA

Tribute Wall

LW

“ I was blessed to get to know Joanna when we sat next to each other at Grace and then became intercession partners for a season. It was an honor to know her.

Lisa Winningham - May 04 at 08:15 PM

DS

“ Joanna was a wonderful person who loved Jesus and hungered for His presence. She yearned to see the Lord awaken the people of our nation to His love, power, and grace! She is missed and not forgotten. My deepest sympathies to all of Joanna's family and friends.

Doug Sherman - May 01 at 03:58 PM

DW

“ Joanna was a wonderful prayer partner and friend! We prayed together once a week, storming Heaven, for many years and also had sweet times of celebrating our birthdays within our prayer group, usually at a restaurant. She was quiet but intense, and loved each member of her family with everything within her and carried each one faithfully in prayer every day. She could both pray with great authority as well as laugh with sheer delight in times of celebration. Truly she was an amazing woman of God!

Donna Williss - May 01 at 03:03 PM



“ *I will always be thankful for Joanna. She was a dear friend. She prayed over me so many times. She use to call once in awhile. At one time I was honored she called and needed things from town. I took them to her and got a sweet visit with my friend. She had great stories. She is well again and dancing on streets of gold.*

Sharebear Nickel - April 29 at 11:26 PM



“ *Joanna was a dear friend. She loved her kids , sister, and grandkids so much, and she loved Her Lord Jesus! Know she is well with Him!*

Dalene Anderson - April 29 at 03:04 PM