



Joyce Lee Brandt

May 20, 1942 - February 11, 2025

Joyce Lee Kliewer was born on May 20, 1942, to Leroy and Betty Kliewer. As the firstborn, she was soon joined by her sister Harriet, followed by her brother John and sister Emajane. Growing up just outside of Reedley, Joyce attended Immanuel High School.

Joyce's journey of faith was a beacon of inspiration from the very beginning. At a young age, she accepted Christ as her savior while attending Bible school, setting the foundation for a life devoted to spiritual growth. Her baptism in the Kings River at just 10 years old was a milestone. Throughout her life, Joyce embodied love and grace, serving as a living testament to the power of faith and the beauty of a life lived in faith.

Her journey took a memorable turn while working at a packing shed, where she caught the eye of a handsome young man named Larry. After some initial hesitation, Larry asked her out on a date, realizing that first impressions could be deceptive. That second date marked a turning point in their lives as it went much better than the first. Joyce married the love of her life a year later, Larry Brandt, at the age of 18 on September 3, 1960, in Reedley. Their honeymoon in Lake Tahoe and visits to the Sacramento State Fair became cherished memories.

As they built their lives together in Reedley, they welcomed their children:

Brenda, Gordon, and Linda. With a growing family, Joyce worked at Del Monte Cannery during the summers to provide the needed extra clothing for her children. Balancing work and motherhood was a testament to her dedication. Their family grew with the addition of Sara in 1969 and Michael in 1974.

Moving to Kingsburg, Larry and Joyce became active members of the Kingsburg Mennonite Brethren Church, playing pivotal roles in establishing the AWANA program. Joyce had a special gift for nurturing young children, often found in the nursery, welcoming new babies with open arms. She and Larry shared their love for music by singing in the choir and participating in worship teams throughout the years. Joyce and Larry were also members of the Kingsburg Mennonite Brethren Church's Bethlehem experience. When you could visit them in the fabric shop, Joyce would embrace her beloved character alongside Larry. Their grandchildren would occasionally join them in the fabric shop as helpers.

Joyce's affection for music shone brightly as she played the piano by ear. With her children spanning various ages, her lively hymns became the morning wake-up call. She joyfully played the saxophone each Christmas, creating warm, musical memories. Alongside her sisters, they beautifully penned songs that resonated at family events, with their classic tune "Jubilee" marking significant milestones-a true testament to the family bond.

Her talent for decorating transformed their home into a gathering place, where holiday meals were celebrated at beautifully set tables. The backyard buzzed with egg hunts and energetic games, while the interior offered cozy spots for the grandchildren's slumber parties. The endless pantry of sweet treats delighted grandchildren, as did her legendary homemade hot chocolate and whipped cream, filling the air with comforting aromas.

Joyce and Larry ventured around the world, from visiting Mexico to joining

Sara on trips to Romania. Whether road trips or camping excursions to Pismo, their adventures reflected their complementary spirits-Joyce relished the travels while Larry thrived on the planning, forming a perfect partnership.

After dedicating 47 years to Del Monte Cannery, Joyce rose to become the Canning Department Supervisor, embodying commitment and hard work until her retirement came when the cannery closed. In her retirement, she embraced time with her beloved grandchildren, who cherished sleepovers, and she supported Larry in his charter bus journeys across the country.

Though always in good health, Joyce faced a mysterious decline. As her independence waned, Larry stepped up to care for her, and moving them to a closer neighborhood in Kingsburg, close to family and their church.

In the early hours of February 11, Joyce peacefully entered Heaven, surrounded by loved ones keeping vigil. The night before, family members gathered to be near her and united in love for her.

Though her illness took her from us too soon, the joyful memories we carry are indelible. Joyce's legacy is one of faith, love, and unwavering kindness. She served others with humility, finding joy in their happiness. Her loyalty, humor, and infectious laughter brightened many lives. Joyce was a hard worker, a remarkable cook, and a warm hostess who made everyone feel like family. Her compassionate eyes told stories of love and empathy. She will be profoundly missed, for her spirit touched all who knew her, making the world a better place.

The family is grateful to Fresno Yosemite Health care, Jay Mendel and Kristin Stopper, who provided for excellent hospice care and Rosie and Monique and Iris who spent many hours lovingly caring for Joyce. They went above and

beyond.

Joyce is enjoying a happy reunion in Heaven with her parents, Leroy and Betty Kliewer, brother-in-law John Friesen, and sister-in-law Lois Kroeker.

Joyce is survived by her husband and love of her life, Larry Brandt, of 64 years, her 5 Children, Brenda, Gordon his wife Rose, Linda, Sara her husband Narcis, Michael his wife Jamie. Her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. As well as her siblings.

A Memorial Service will be on Saturday, March 15, 2025 at 10:00 at Hope Kingsburg Church, 1301 Stroud Avenue. Luncheon to follow.

In lieu of flowers you may make a donation in memory of Joyce Brandt to Kingsburg Youth Outreach 1541 Windsor Dr, Kingsburg, CA 93631.

Services have been entrusted to Salser & Dillard Creighton Chapel. Memorial Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto www.salseranddillard.com

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 15. 10:00 AM.

Hope Kingsburg Church

Tribute Wall

MN

“ I will always remember Joyce as a sweet, quiet presence. She loved her family so much. Celebrating holidays and special events with Joyce always brought an extra touch of her gentle love for all. My children have been blessed to be a part of Joyce’s family. Heaven is playing amazing music with Joyce. I’m so glad she and Lois (as well as others) are healed and together again. Love to all who know and love her.

Michelle Nylin - February 28, 2025 at 12:40 PM