



Joan Phillips Newton

February 23, 1938 - March 7, 2026

Joan Phillips Newton, 88, of Mooresville, NC, passed away at the S. Mitchell Mack Hospice House on March 7, 2026 after a brief illness. Joan was born on February 23, 1938 to the late Fred C. Phillips, Sr. and Lutelle Hodgson Phillips.

A proud lifelong resident of Mooresville, she graduated from Mooresville High School, and worked as a secretary for two years in a local doctor's office before her marriage to her high school sweetheart, Vernon S. Newton, in 1958. They were happily married for 53 years before his passing in 2011. Together they created a loving home where they raised three children, who now cherish Joan's memory and strive to live by her fine example: Roxanne Newton and partner Michael Morrison, Shannon Newton and wife Michelle, and Brad Newton and wife Kelly.

Joan is also survived by seven beloved grandchildren: Ethan Miller and partner Bianca Rowlett, Hannah Miller Mishin, Kristen Newton Lail and husband Matthew, Westley Newton and wife Natosha, Chloe Newton Crenshaw and husband Josh, Marissa Newton Clark and husband Christopher, and Cole Newton. Throughout their childhood years, they were treated to epic Grandchildren Parties, elaborate overnight adventures with games, arts and crafts, and imaginative tales, creating many happy memories of fun times with Grandma.

She is also survived by 10 great-grandchildren, who were the delight of her life: Ezra Muir, Anna Lail, Carter Newton, Rachael Lail, Aida Newton, Lucy

Clark, Henry Lail, Beau Crenshaw, Walter Clark, and Lena Crenshaw. Her growing family was a constant source of pride and joy in Joan's later years. Her siblings also meant so much to her. She is survived by brother Fred C. Phillips, Jr. and sister Patti Phillips Nantz and husband Doug. Sisters Carolyn Phillips Murdock and Kathi Phillips Shuler, preceded her in death. She is also survived by brother-in-law Glenn Shuler and sisters-in-law Ruby Newton Isehower, and Barbara B. Newton as well as a host of much-loved cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

A gifted teacher and a devoted lifelong learner, Joan loved reading and discovering new ideas and techniques. She was a creative, talented homemaker while her children were growing up. A member of the Iredell County Extension Home Demonstration Club, Joan took classes in sewing, tailoring, canning, and cooking. She was famous for her potato salad and cakes, and her fashion sense was unparalleled. She enjoyed sewing and assembling beautiful and interesting clothing and accessories and home décor for every occasion.

Though she loved being a homemaker, Joan always dreamed of furthering her education in hopes of becoming a teacher. After working 12 years as a teacher assistant at Brawley Middle School and Park View Elementary School, at the age of 40, Joan enrolled first at Mitchell Community College and later at Gardner-Webb University, taking night classes while working full-time. She earned her BA degree with honors in Elementary Education, graduating in four years. She began her teaching career at South Elementary School in 1984.

Joan loved teaching first graders to read and was a patient, talented, creative teacher who never gave up on any child. She believed everyone could learn if given the right support and encouragement. During her 28 years of teaching, Joan helped hundreds of children learn to love books and reading.

After her retirement, Joan volunteered at South Elementary School, tutored children privately, and enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren, traveling to the beach with friends, and hosting many family

gatherings and celebrations. She also worked at Kohl's in the jewelry department, where she made many new friends and enjoyed learning new skills. At age 80, she retired from Kohl's.

In her final years, Joan cherished time with beloved family and friends, always opening her heart and her home to anyone who visited. Always learning, loving, and giving, Joan not only followed her dreams of creating a happy family, a loving home, and a fulfilling career, she encouraged and empowered her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and hundreds of students to follow their dreams as well.

The family will receive friends at Broad Street Church of Mooresville on Wednesday, March 11 at 1:30 PM. A celebration of life service will follow at 3:00 with the Rev. Gary Sowell officiating. Burial will follow at Glenwood Cemetery. Cavin-Cook Funeral Home is serving the Newton family.

Memorial gifts may be made to Hospice & Palliative Care of Iredell County or The Christian Mission of Mooresville.

The family would like to express appreciation to the staff of S. Mitchell Mack Hospice House, Accessible Home Care, and Iredell Health Systems Skilled Nursing department for their compassionate and expert care. Also, the family is grateful to niece Nina Newton and friend Donna Mayes for their loving support over the years.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home, Mooresville, NC is proudly serving the Newton family.

Condolences may be made to the family at www.cavin-cook.com.

Cemetery Details

Glenwood Memorial Park

273 Glenwood Drive
Mooresville, NC 28115

Previous Events

Receiving Friends

MAR 11. 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Broad Street Church
355 South Broad Street
Mooresville, NC 28115

Funeral Service

MAR 11. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Broad Street Church
355 South Broad Street
Mooresville, NC 28115

Graveside Service

MAR 11. 4:15 PM - 4:45 PM (ET)

Glenwood Memorial Park
273 Glenwood Drive
Mooresville, NC 28115

Tribute Wall

GS

“ I learned so much more about your mom after reading about her! I just remember her coming over here and being so proud of Brad and his meticulous work and Brad being so excited to bring her over here. Cole always talking about his grandma and sharing stories ,and Kelly going over to see her and check on her. Now she's finally with Vernon, which I know is a comfort to you all, but it sure doesn't mean you won't miss her like crazy.....
Love you , Mike and Ginny

Ginny Scoles - March 19 at 09:12 AM

RN

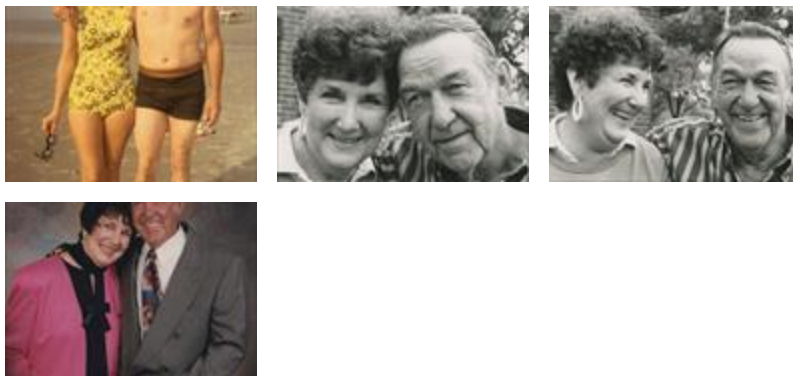
“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Roxanne Newton - March 15 at 11:17 AM

RN

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Roxanne Newton - March 15 at 11:13 AM

WG

“ To the family, may God bless you all in this time of sorrow and help you to know that she has not gone away but stands beside you every day! Joan was loved by all. I enjoyed talking to her when I would see her out in the stores. Sending prayers your way. Wanda Golden

Wanda Golden - March 11 at 03:47 PM

DT

“ Donna Brannon Troutman lit a candle in memory of Joan Phillips Newton



Donna Brannon Troutman - March 11 at 10:25 AM

LS

“ Love, Rebecca And Steve purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Joan Phillips Newton.



Love, Rebecca And Steve - March 10 at 10:43 PM

RN

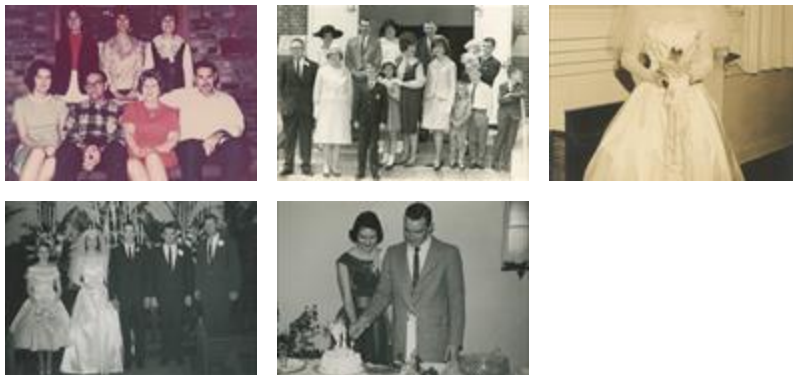
“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



Roxanne Newton - March 10 at 08:14 PM

RN

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Roxanne Newton - March 10 at 08:11 PM

JB

“ Jay Brewer purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Joan Phillips Newton.



Jay Brewer - March 10 at 05:37 PM

JB

“ Jay Brewer planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joan Phillips Newton.

Jay Brewer - March 10 at 05:37 PM

DM

“ Joan and myself spent many hours together at the Kohls jewelry counter in Mooresville...I couldn't ask for a better coworker and cherished our time together...She always had a ready smile and sage advice and I will dearly miss her...but I know she is in heaven looking down on her family and friends.. Rest in peace dear friend....

Diane Madden - March 10 at 01:55 PM

RJ

“ Brad, Kelly and Cole...so sorry to learn of mom's passing. Please know our prayers are with you. Wishing you peace and comfort knowing she is home with her Creator. Cherish your many memories and the presence of her spirit in your lives .. love you all.
Ralph and Linda

Ralph and Linda Jeswald - March 09 at 10:35 PM

PR

“ My sincere condolences to Roxanne and the entire Newton family. Joan was such a special friend to me. We worked together for many years at Kohls in the jewelry department. Later on we became neighbors. She was such a wise and very kind person. I will forever cherish our visits and talks . Pat

Patrica Rawlinson - March 09 at 06:25 PM

SM

“ *Sandy And Ned Mills lit a candle in memory of Joan Phillips Newton*



Sandy and Ned Mills - March 09 at 11:44 AM

SM

So sorry for your loss, your Mom was such a lovely lady. Sending love and prayers your way.

Sandy and Ned Mills - March 09 at 11:45 AM

JM

“ *Roxanne, Shannon, Brad and families, Sending love and prayers for you all. Even though we're didn't see each other very often, we did have phone visits, and childhood memories to share. With sympathy, Jean Morgan*

Jean Morgan - March 09 at 09:24 AM

SE

“ *Shannon, Roxanne & Brad, So sorry to hear of your Mom's passing. She was a special lady & I learned a lot more about her through reading her obit. God bless and comfort you all today & in the days ahead, and may He fill your hearts with precious memories to help you smile through the tears. Love, Sylvia Alexander Ervin*

Sylvia Ervin - March 09 at 07:26 AM

DM

“ God sends earthly angels to help guide us through this journey of life, and Joan was one of those angels for me and my family. She was far more than a friend.

Our journey began as beginning teachers, learning and growing together. Over the years, that shared experience grew into a lifelong friendship that I will always treasure. Joan's support, wisdom, and steady presence helped carry me through many of life's ups and downs.

She was the calming voice during life's storms and the joyful cheerleader during times of triumph. Her kindness, encouragement, and unwavering friendship were gifts beyond measure.

Thank you, Newton family, for sharing Joan with me. You are her beautiful legacy, and she loved each of you so dearly.

Donna Mayes - March 08 at 09:28 PM