



## Joan Sammons Heinis

November 16, 1937 - December 9, 2022

Billie Joan Sammons Heinis was born in the SC mountains to Emory Levi Sammons of Herndon, GA and Billie Huskey Sammons of Gaffney, SC. She spent her childhood in Taylors, SC with four sisters (San, Sib, Lin and Barbara). After a semester spent studying in New York City with her sister, Barbara, Joan graduated from Furman University with a master's degree in education.

As a very young woman, Joan bravely traveled alone halfway across the globe to teach in the Philippines and Germany. This was when she introduced her mother and sisters to Europe, as she drove them through many countries in her Volkswagen. After 3 years abroad Joan returned to the states to teach in Atlanta and Greenville for 20 plus years.

Back in Greenville, Joan lived with her mother, Billie, at High Grove in the Travelers Rest countryside with beautiful views of cows, donkeys, and mountains. When Billie's house was sold, Joan bought the house next door and soon met the love of her life, Markus Heinis.

Joan and Markus met in 1991 at a Shakespeare play at Bob Jones. They married in 1995 at Northgate Baptist Church. At that time Joan got an educational leave from her teaching position and they went together to the UK/Manchester, where Markus had a job as sales manager. During that time, Joan traveled the UK, England, Scotland and Ireland with Markus for business and pleasure. She developed an unusual appetite for the "real" football (soccer) and Markus had nothing against that, well probably he influenced her

a bit..... Many Premier League games were attended, and Saturdays became a ritual for Joan and Markus. Joan also volunteered a little at a local school to learn the "English" school system better. After the return to the US Joan continued to teach school until the end of 1999 when she retired after 25 years of teaching. Now she had more time for her home, family, friends and of course her husband.

Joan continued to travel with Markus nationally and internationally. She was open-minded and liked to explore. She had a flair for Italy. Italian food was her favorite, designs and clothing from Italy were high on her agenda. However, she always liked to come home, where mostly everybody spoke English and above all to be near her family, which she loved so dearly. Joan was looking after her health and was very active, taking no prescription medicine until Parkinson's was detected at the age of 82. She never complained, remaining steadfast in her faith and thankful for the life she and Markus had together. And how thankful we are to have had Joan.

Funeral services will be held at 2 o'clock Thursday afternoon at Northgate Baptist Church with burial to follow in Woodlawn Memorial Park Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 1 PM until 1:50 PM at the church prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Northgate Baptist Church Building Fund.

# Cemetery Details

## Woodlawn Memorial Park

1 Pine Knoll Dr.  
Greenville, SC

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 15. 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM (ET)

Northgate Baptist Church  
633 Summit Drive  
Greenville, SC 29609

## Church Service

DEC 15. 2:00 PM (ET)

Northgate Baptist Church  
633 Summit Drive  
Greenville, SC 29609

# Tribute Wall

MF

“*Joan was a wonderful lady who had a kind word for everyone she met, and made a great team with Markus. Your friends in the local Irish community are saddened by your great loss. "Ar dheis dé go raibh a hanam"*

*Marty Flynn*

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**Marty Flynn** - December 17, 2022 at 09:13 AM

LL

“*So very sorry for the loss of such a lovely lady and beautiful friend. Sending much love from Patrick, Lisa and the family*

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**Lisa Linnane** - December 16, 2022 at 09:26 AM

GI

“*Deepest condolences and sympathy in your loss. GENKINGER GMBH - GENKINGER INC*

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**GENKINGER INC** - December 14, 2022 at 05:20 PM

GI

“*GENKINGER GMBH - GENKINGER INC purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Joan Sammons Heinis.*



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**GENKINGER GMBH - GENKINGER INC** - December 14, 2022 at 05:15 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Joan Sammons Heinis.*



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December 13, 2022 at 03:06 PM



“ *Southern Textile Association purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Joan Sammons Heinis.*



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**Southern Textile Association** - December 13, 2022 at 02:46 PM



“ *Markus and family:  
We are heartbroken for you. Joan was the quintessential Southern lady - kind, gentle and loving. I, along with the Southern Textile Association, are keeping you close in our thoughts and prayers.*

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**Devin Steele** - December 13, 2022 at 12:02 PM



“ *Linda and family I know you are heartbroken, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I can still see Joan in her yard working , pruning and cleaning just about on a daily basis. She was such a strong lady as her sisters are also . May God carry you through this difficult time. I will keep you all in my prayers. Becky Coggins*

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**Rebecca Coggins** - December 12, 2022 at 10:35 AM

JR

“ Dear Markus,  
I am very sorry for your loss.  
God bless you and your family.  
Sincerely,  
Joe Ready

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**Joe Ready** - December 12, 2022 at 07:12 AM

RC

Markus, deepest condolence and Sympathy, was very saddened on Joans passing , she was a lovely lady and I enjoyed her friendship every time we met ,she will be greatly missed and hope you find comfort in knowing she is in a safe place in the arms of Jesus where hopefully we will all meet again one day May she rest in Peace ,thoughts and prayers for you and the family  
Rose &Coy Crowe

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**Rose Ella Crowe** - January 02, 2023 at 03:01 AM

AC

A wonderful adventurous sister who introduced her four sisters and mother to travel, especially in Europe. So many unforgettable memories. We love her very much. San

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**Alexandra Coleman** - February 16, 2025 at 03:50 PM