



CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LOVE OF
Joan Poston Hughes

October 11, 1938 - September 22, 2025



Joan Hughes was a strikingly beautiful and intelligent woman who took immense pride in her family. With a confident, intentional, and caring spirit, she had a presence that quietly yet unmistakably filled every room. With her sharp mind and quick wit, she could hold her own in any debate. Her family was both her joy and her priority, always at the core of who she was. She had a remarkable ability to embrace those around her, offering guidance, generosity, and care as if they were her own family.

Joan's journey began on October 11, 1938, born to Cecil and Agnes Poston in Newport, Kentucky. Joan was the youngest of eight children with older siblings; Eileen, James, Thomas, Patricia, Rosemary, William and Robert. From childhood, Joan carried with her the values of family devotion—making them her highest priority and dedicating herself to their care. Joan faced loss early in life, losing her sister and, not long after, her father to illness. In the wake of loss, she spent several summers in Alabama visiting extended family, where those experiences profoundly shaped her outlook and resilience. Joan attended LaSalette Academy during her grade school years. She took part in the Glee Club, Year Book, Chemistry Club, and helped in the library during her years attending Bellevue High School. As a high schooler, she loved spending time with friends on 'The Avenue' or enjoying a night at the Marianne theater in downtown Bellevue with family.

The year 1957 was a milestone for Joan—she graduated and met the love of her life, Terry Hughes. Their first encounter at the F & N Steakhouse would be the spark for a marriage that began in 1959 and flourished for 67 years. Interestingly, Joan and Terry once lived just two blocks apart on York Street in Newport during their childhood, unaware that they would one day share a lifetime together, creating cherished memories. Joan and Terry balanced each other perfectly—she kept the household running smoothly, he provided with devotion, and their mutual support allowed their bond to deepen and strengthen throughout the years.



Joan and Terry's 1960s were busy and exciting. As their family grew, they spent time at social events at the Elks Club, entertained family and friends with annual Thanksgiving celebrations, and built a new home on Francis Lane in Covington, Kentucky. They joyfully welcomed their first son, Matthew, in 1960. Joan was beyond thrilled to take on her new role as a mother. A couple of years later, in 1962, they celebrated the birth of their baby girl, Monica. The whole family gathered on Sunday evenings for a home-cooked meal, Joan hosted Thanksgiving every year from 1962 to 2023, a cherished celebration she eagerly anticipated. Joan and Terry were thrilled to learn they would welcome a third child, Patrick, in 1969. Their home was a revolving door of loved ones and neighbors, always met with warmth and care. Joan made it a place where all felt unconditionally loved and at home. Joan's faith was a guiding force, and she was determined to nurture that same foundation in her children. The Hughes' settled into a new house in Ft. Wright in 1972, a space filled with love and lasting memories. Annual vacations to Florida or Hilton Head held a special place in their hearts, and Sunday drives to Augusta, with the whole family crowded in the car, were treasured outings.



Exceptionally intelligent, Joan earned a bachelor's degree in history from Northern Kentucky University in 1980, and four years later, she completed an MBA in Business—receiving honors on both occasions. Once her children were all in school, she embarked on a career as an underwriting analyst at Great American Insurance Company and later went on to work for the IRS. Two women profoundly shaped Joan's life—her mother, who dedicated herself to her family, and her aunt by marriage, whose example as an entrepreneurial career woman inspired Joan's own ambitions. Joan was a good cook, and all looked forward to her infamous round steak with mashed potatoes and gravy or her spaghetti and meatballs. She enjoyed her signature drink of Canadian Club on ice and loved the music of John Gary, which at times played on repeat. Joan had a deep passion for her heritage, taking pride in exploring her family roots and ancestry. She enjoyed a good Halibut dinner after a long week, and her favorite movie was "Gone With The Wind." Joan's creative side shone through her love of baking and ceramics, as she devoted time to crafting and discovering new inspirations. Her holiday bourbon balls were eagerly awaited, and the aroma of her kitchen always brought people together.





Joan and Terry were proud grandparents to seven grandchildren—Meredith, Nicholas, Kevin, Patrick, Stephen, Emma, Julia, Brody, and Jacob. But Joan's love extended far beyond that, embracing many as her own family. They brought a tremendous amount of joy and light into her days. Joan was the steadfast matriarch of her family. She led with love, authenticity, and an unwavering quiet strength, welcoming anyone and everyone with warmth and generosity.

Joan passed away peacefully on Monday, September 22, 2025, to be greeted by those who had gone before her. Her heart of gold and willingness to go above and beyond to care for others allowed her to impact countless lives for the better. Although she is already so greatly missed, she leaves behind a priceless legacy that her loved ones will be proud to carry on in her footsteps.

