



## Mrs. Josephine Cochran

September 18, 1923 - August 12, 2015

Josephine “Jo” Cochran, 91, our dear sweet mother, grandmom, great grandmom and friend, went to be with Jesus on Wednesday, August 12, 2015. Jo left a legacy to inspire us to love God with all our hearts and love others as He loves us. We will miss her kind and thoughtful ways, her encouraging words and the unconditional love that she gave to everyone. Her prayers brought many of us through the peaks and valleys of life.

Jo lived and loved well. Born Sept. 18, 1923, in Harlan, Kentucky, she was one of 4 children. She came to Knoxville to attend the University of Tennessee where she met the love of her life Litton Cochran. Litton and Jo were married 43 years and made quite a team. They worked hard to develop a new business and opened the first McDonald’s restaurant in Tennessee in 1960. Together, they built the business with their children and are credited with developing the McDonald’s Apple Pie in their own kitchen.

They were active members of First Baptist Church, Knoxville, and served in several capacities. For many years they taught Sunday School in the college-aged department, hosted students in their home, served as deacons participated on committees, and Jo especially loved ministering to the shut ins. In addition, Litton and Jo helped found the Knoxville Ronald McDonald House in the early 80s and she remained a board member until 2010. Together they were strong UT supporters and always UT VOLS fans! They started an employee scholarship program in 1964 and awarded employees full 1-year scholarships to UT for over 35 years. They served UT in a variety of volunteer roles and were avid supporters of men’s and women’s sports and the UT band. Jo continued to serve the community after Litton’s death in 1987. She especially loved Knoxville Area Rescue Missions, Interfaith Health Clinic, the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg, Kentucky (that her grandfather helped found), Patricia Neal Rehab Center and UT Medical Center (and their efforts in cancer research). Giving back to the community was especially important to both Litton and Jo. They also loved fishing and traveling with their close friends. In later years Jo and her sister-in-law Carol saw the world together and loved every minute of it.

Whether she was serving Mobile Meals, a meal at church, opening her home to people or responding to needs of others, she always gave so freely. She never wanted to be the center of attention, but when she spoke you knew her word was true and people listened.

We give a special thanks to Jo's faithful caregivers: Lisa Matichak, Evelyn Bailey, Rhonda Thornton and Janet Brickzen, who lovingly cared for her for 5 and 1/2 years! We also want to thank Dr. John Lacey and his nurses, Dr. Aaron Smith, Dr. Paul Hatcher, Dr. Monica Crane, and the staff at Caris Hospice - Wendy, Melissa, Denise and Amy, who faithfully cared for Jo through this difficult time of life.

Jo is preceded in death by her parents, J. A. and Dorcas Dickinson, husband Litton Cochran, son Phil, brother Jack and wife Carol, brother Don and wife Jean and brother Jim. She leaves behind her daughter Karen C Rogers (Merritt), son Tom Cochran (Nancy), daughter Joanne C Huddleston (Kirk), daughters-in-law Patty Cochran and Margie C Houston, grandchildren Rob Rogers, Clint Rogers, Tim Rogers (Erin), Eric Cochran (Emily), Ellen C Kuendig (Dave), Holly C Pace (Justin), Zach Cochran (Julie), Andy Huddleston (Kelly), and Matt Huddleston. Also, Jo leaves behind 8 great grandchildren - Bragg and McKaye Rogers; David, Merritt and Sarah Kuendig; Navy Jane Pace; Eli Cochran and Penn Huddleston, special great nephew Dakota Dickinson, sister-in-law Eleanor Dickinson and several other special relatives and friends.

The family will have a graveside service at 10am followed by a Celebration of Life service for family and friends at First Baptist Church at 2pm Saturday, August 22nd. The family will greet friends after the service. Memorials may be sent to First Baptist Church, 510 W. Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee, 37902 or Ronald McDonald House, 1705 W. Clinch Avenue, Knoxville, Tennessee 37916. Arrangements by Rose Mortuary Mann Heritage Chapel. Online condolences at [www.rosemortuary.com](http://www.rosemortuary.com)

# Events

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**AUG**   **Celebration of Life**   02:00PM

**22**

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First Baptist Church

510 W. Main Street, Knoxville, TN, US

**AUG**   **Receiving of Friends Following The Service**

**22**

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First Baptist Church

510 W. Main Street, Knoxville, TN, US

# Comments

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“ Dear Cochran family,

Mrs. Cochran always had a smile and encouraging words to share with me for which I am immensely grateful. Yet, I am only one of thousands and thousands who were fortunate enough to share in the seeds of love that Mrs. Cochran sewed around this planet. Among my many positive recollections was the privilege I had to serve on the board of the Hotel / Restaurant Administration board of advisors at U.T. I was always in awe of the well-deserved respect and attention that was paid to the words that Mrs. Cochran had to offer to those lucky enough to be in attendance. That respect followed her around because people learned that what she had to say was worthy of attention. Mrs. Cochran earned that status through countless, God-inspired, little acts that blazed a trail of righteousness in her own way. Mrs. Cochran was a wise, Godly lady who greatly blessed our whole family by setting the example of making correct choices. She generously and genuinely loved those around her. Mrs. Cochran's spirit lives on admirably in the amazing legacy she has left within the hearts and minds of her children, grandchildren, and in the generations to follow. Mrs. Cochran's life was a blessing to the throng of people in attendance at her memorial service. We all paid the same focused attention to those sharing their memories of her that we would have paid to Mrs. Cochran. In return, we again were blessed by Mrs. Cochran's life through the words of those who shared their memories with us. Thank you, Cochran family, for relaying God's rich blessings to us for which we are most appreciative.

We Love you!!

-Grady Regas

**Grady Regas** - September 20, 2015 at 06:46 PM

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“ "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want " (Psalm 23:1)

About 24 years ago we came from Argentina due to our son's health problems. Like an angel sent from God, Mrs Jo helped us every step of the way. For us, she was our American mother, grandmother, friend, and most of all a role model. It was a blessing to have known such a wonderful, caring, christian, and strong woman. She has and always will be in our hearts, and thoughts. We know she is still watching us from heaven, Mrs Jo, our guardian angel.

Love,  
Adorati Family

**Adorati Family** - August 26, 2015 at 08:02 PM

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“ To Jo's Family,

Jo was so kind, open, and caring. I was privileged to know her at church and serve with her as a deacon. She spoke well and with love, causing all of us to ponder her words. She lived her faith. I am thankful for her witness. She will be missed for sure.

Prayers for all of you.

Dianne Forry

Dianne Forry - August 25, 2015 at 10:29 PM

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“ Tracey Worex is following this tribute.

Tracey Worex - August 23, 2015 at 05:51 PM

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“ Tom, both Clare and I are so sorry that your Mom has passed away.i know that you have many wonderful memories,.....as i do, of you, and our golfing endeavors and trips...fondest regards,and love,..... John Wylie, pga golf professioal,....and your buddy, Clare

john wylie - August 22, 2015 at 03:53 PM

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“ Joanne,  
Your mother left your family a wonderful legacy. What a precious treasure you have to pass on.

Paula Settle  
Stanton, Ky.

Paula Settle - August 22, 2015 at 11:46 AM

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“ What a truly wonderful person and fond memory in my life. Thank you so much Jo for having known you. I have enjoyed seeing and visiting with you over the past few years at Central Baptist Church Bearden. Karen, I hope life has been good to you over the years.  
Very sincerely,  
Clyde Carpenter

Clyde Carpenter - August 21, 2015 at 02:36 PM

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“ I was so sorry to read of Jo's passing. I remember so many fun times that Stan and I shared with Jo and Litton at University of Tennessee functions when "they" were President of the U. T. Alumni Association. My sympathy goes out to all the Cochran family.

Sincerely,  
Ann McNally

Ann McNally - August 21, 2015 at 02:28 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Josephine Cochran.



August 19, 2015 at 11:20 PM

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“ Dear Cochran Family,  
Mr. and Mrs. Cochran were such pioneers and leaders in our East Tennessee community. While building a business, they gave others the opportunity to better their lives. I was a five+ year employee of MCD's and was able to graduate from the University of Tennessee partly because of a scholarship that the Cochran's funded. My sister is currently a 30+ year employee and manager within the Cochran family business. I thank Mr. and Mrs. Cochran for allowing my family the opportunity to better our future. East Tennessee will miss Mrs. Josephine Cochran.  
Todd Smith

Todd Smith - August 19, 2015 at 09:19 PM

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“ Dear Joanne and Kirk,  
I'm sorry I was out of town and just learned of Jo's passing. The times I talked with her I was impressed by her kind and gentle manner. I'm impressed by her many accomplishments. I pray your treasured memories will comfort you.  
Steve Franklin



“ To all of the Cochran family please accept our deepest sympathy. Jo was one of the sweetest, kindest and most caring lady we have had the pleasure to know and love, she will be missed by so many folks. We know your hearts are heavy with your loss but we know she is reunited with loved ones and is rejoicing with the angels. We will keep your family in our prayers.  
With Deepest Sympathy,  
Linda and Buck Vaughn

Linda Vaughn - August 18, 2015 at 09:23 AM

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“ MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS THE COCHRAN FAMILY DURING YOUR TIME OF BEREAVEMENT , GRANNY COCHRAN WAS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL PERSON AND LOVED VERY MUCH .  
WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY LISA PITTS



LISA PITTS - August 17, 2015 at 08:31 PM

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“ Dear Tom, Nancy, and Family, We are praying that Jesus will comfort you all during this time. Your mother was a beautiful Christian woman that was admired by so many including us. We know that someday you all will be reunited with her. How wonderful and marvelous is the love of God that we never really say goodbye to our loved ones. We are so glad that you had many years together here on earth. She will be missed by all. We lit a green candle because it reminded us of eternal life. God bless you, Phil and Jan Knudson

Phil and Jan Knudson - August 17, 2015 at 07:29 PM

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“ Phil And Jan Knudson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Josephine Cochran



Phil and Jan Knudson - August 17, 2015 at 07:14 PM

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“ Dear Nancy and Tom and all of Jo's family,  
Jo was SO special. What a wonderful and genuine friend she was. We all will miss her!  
I am so sorry that I will not be able to be with you on Saturday, but I will certainly be thinking of all of you and of Jo.  
I pray that all of you will find the peace and comfort that only God can give.  
Blessings,  
Emilee Frincke

Emilee.Frincke - August 17, 2015 at 01:23 PM

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“ Priscilla Bruce lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Josephine Cochran



priscilla bruce - August 17, 2015 at 12:16 PM



“ I work as a manager at Mcdonalds years ago great company

priscilla bruce - August 17, 2015 at 12:20 PM