



Joyce Ellen Burkhart

May 27, 1948 - July 21, 2025

Joyce “Joy” Ellen Craig Burkhart, age 77, of Tallahassee, Florida, passed away peacefully on July 21st, 2025 after a courageous battle with cancer, surrounded by loved ones.

Born on May 27th, 1948, in Brockton, Massachusetts, Joy was the beloved daughter of Constance “Connie” Arnold Craig and Richard Ansel Craig and spent her early years in Abington, Mass, before moving to Tallahassee in 1958. One of five children, Joy cherished her childhood on Cape Cod. Her siblings Malcolm Craig, Lee Ann Cook, Janet Stokes, and Ronda Craig remained deeply connected to her throughout her life. Joy was known for her kindness, resilience, and generous spirit, and lived a life full of love, friendship, and strength.

She was married to her devoted husband, Alan Burkhart, whom she wed in 1983. Together, they shared over four decades of love, partnership, and unwavering support, especially throughout her illness. Earlier in life, she shared chapters of her journey with Howard Clark and John Mawhinney, both of whom she remained close friends with.

Joy was a devoted mother of three sons, who were the light of her life and the source of her greatest pride. Her sons Dustin Shane Clark(deceased), Bryan Craig Clark and his wife Tori, Richard “Brad” Mawhinney (deceased) and his

wife Karen. She was also a cherished grandmother to Megan Clark, Kirstin Bodie, Rylan Clark, Hayes Clark and Ben Mawhinney and a great-grandmother to Jensen, Brylee, Mia, and Leila O'Connor.

Joy was a graduate of Leon High School. In her professional life, Joy began her career as a licensed practical nurse (LPN) and worked in various healthcare settings. Eventually, she found her true calling at Lincoln High School, where she spent 30 years. She was a beloved part of the school community, known for her compassion, dedication, and the care she provided for countless students and staff. She retired in 2016, leaving behind a legacy of kindness and service.

After retiring, Joy enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. She loved journaling, puzzles and being out in nature. She loved her neighborhood community in the Miccosukee Land Co-op. Her spirit of service continued there. Whether lending a helping hand at the community center, sharing a warm conversation, or simply brightening someone's day, she remained a source of kindness and connection in her later years.

Joy is survived by her husband, Alan Burkhart; her son, Bryan Clark; and her grandchildren Megan, Kirstin, Rylan, Hayes and Ben and her great-grandchildren Jensen, Brylee, Mia and Leila. She is also survived by her siblings, Malcolm Craig (Allys), Lee Ann Cook (David), Janet Stokes, and Ronda Craig as well as many nieces and nephews and a host of wonderful friends. She was preceded in death by her beloved sons, Dustin Clark and Brad Mawhinney and her parents, Connie and Richard Craig.

A celebration of her life is being planned at the Miccosukee Land Co-Op community center. Date and details will be shared soon. Friends and family are warmly invited to attend and share memories. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Big Bend Hospice in her memory. Though we grieve her

passing, we find comfort knowing she is reunited with those she loved and that her spirit lives on in all of us.

Mrs. Burkhart is under the care of Jackie Fulford and James Sircy of Young Fulford Funeral Home, Tallahassee, Florida. 850.610.4444

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG 2. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (est)

Miccosukee Land Co-Op Community Center
9601 Miccosukee Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32309

Friends and family are warmly invited to attend and share memories.

Tribute Wall

YF

“ Your James Hardie Family purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Joyce Ellen Burkhart.



Your James Hardie Family - July 31, 2025 at 09:22 PM

BP

“ I will miss my frequent encounters with Joy as she walked with her dog on her way across the boardwalk. She always had a smile and a kind word that brightened my day. Such a lovely person. I'm so saddened for your loss, Alan and family.
Bill Phelan

Bill Phelan - July 24, 2025 at 04:13 PM

JF

Joy was a welcoming presence to me both on the co-op and that Lincoln high School where she worked and I worked. She was always concerned about the students and gave generously of her time and energy. Staff and students they're both appreciated her. I also enjoyed seeing her on the boardwalks and trails where she also always had a friendly word. My condolences go out to her family. Judy Felder

Judy Felder - July 25, 2025 at 11:48 AM

LD

“ Our heartfelt sympathy to Alan and family.

We will miss seeing and visiting with Joy on our morning walks. Our paths often crossed on Sunrise Road where we'd see Joy and Roxie walking towards us. We'd stop to share a "good day, how are you?, what's new?". And smiling depart contented with our visit with Joy during our walk in the woods.



Condolences, Linda & Ed Deaton

Linda Deaton - July 23, 2025 at 03:15 PM

TC

Thank you Linda. I will make sure to share your message with Alan ❤️

Tori Clark - July 23, 2025 at 04:11 PM

RK

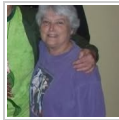
“ Joy expressed to me often how content she was with her life even throughout her fight with cancer. Simple things brought her happiness-going out to breakfast together, receiving a small bouquet of flowers, and yes emptying trash at the community center. She knew that keeping that building clean was a way to show her love and care for our wellbeing as a community and she was ever faithful until she became ill. Some people see weeds in a field, Joy saw flowers. I miss her.

Rose Kelley - July 23, 2025 at 02:26 PM

JL

“ While Joy and Alan lived many years in our community, it was only after she retired that she became an active and treasured communitarian. Her name reflected her spirit--always shining and full of life and appreciation of each person she encountered. May her soul fly ever higher into the oneness of all.
- Judith Lyons

Judith Lyons - July 23, 2025 at 12:18 PM



Joy was a much valued neighbor, who always exhibited care for others even after she became ill. I will miss her smile. - Mo Malvern

Mo Malvern - July 23, 2025 at 01:18 PM

KM

Joy brightened my day with her quick smile and laughs. I'm grateful I got to chat with her often as she walked by on her regular walks in the neighborhood. She was a kind soul and I will miss her care and big heart.

Kelly McGrath - July 23, 2025 at 01:51 PM