

JOYCE POUNDS HARDY

1925-2018

Joyce Pounds Hardy, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother passed away peacefully on March 22, 2018 at age 92. Joyce was born on November 23, 1925 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Houston, Texas to Horace and Christine Pounds. She and her loving sister, Bettye, shared a close relationship for nine decades.

Though Joyce attended elementary school in San Marcos, Texas, the family returned to Houston for the duration of her childhood and adolescence. She attended Lanier Middle School and Lamar High School. At Lamar, she was on the women's football, basketball, and softball teams where the seeds were planted for what was to come.

After graduation from Lamar, Joyce entered Rice Institute with the class of '45, majoring in English. While there, she organized the first women's football, basketball, and softball teams. The dean of women threatened to expel the women for "unladylike conduct" but relented when they agreed to move their games to the outskirts of campus. It was then Joyce made a promise that if ever it were in her power, no woman would be denied the opportunity to play a sport at Rice. She kept this promise by becoming a fierce advocate for women's athletics.

Before Joyce entered her junior year at Rice, she met and married former Rice graduate and then UTMB medical student, Tom Hardy. His naval obligation compelled Joyce to leave Rice to become a Navy wife. For over ten years they lived the military life with stops in Galveston, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Pensacola, and San Diego. During that time, they became the parents to five children, moving back to Houston once Tom's tour of duty in Korea was complete. After 25 years of marriage, Joyce re-enrolled at Rice, finishing her degree in English in 1967. That set the stage for a lifetime commitment to the university. Her husband, Tom, a long-time anesthesiologist at Methodist Hospital, passed away in 1984 at which time she refocused her energies on family, writing, and Rice.

For over four decades, Joyce was a tireless advocate for women's athletics on campus. Her significant contributions to that cause are honored each year with the presentation of the Joyce Pounds Hardy Award, given to the most outstanding female varsity athlete for athletic and scholastic achievement. Joyce was elected to the Rice Board of Governors from 1986-1990. While on the board, she defied expectations by raising the necessary funds to finally air condition the basketball gym, Autry Court. Among her many contributions, she was the first female president of the Alumni Association and, fittingly, the first female president of the R Association, whose membership is comprised of former Rice student athletes and coaches. After her many years of service, she was awarded the Distinguished R Award, the highest honor for a Rice alumnus.

Over the years, Joyce was an avid supporter of all Rice athletics, often showing up at practices and games with "lucky" treats for the various teams. She is best known in that regard for her 40 years of supplying pregame bubblegum to the baseball team, a devotion that earned her the nickname, "Bubblegum Lady".

Joyce used her expertise in English to embark on her award-winning career in writing. She won such honors as the Texas Writer's Recognition Award for her first book, *The Reluctant Hunter*, a collection of 60 poems covering 20 years of hunting trips and her evolving affection for the beauty of the rugged West Texas landscape. Additional books include *French Windows* (for the six summers she spent studying writing at the Paris American Academy), *Surviving Aunt Ruth*, *Lyrics for Old Lovers*, *Reflections*

of a Moonwatcher, and Roads to Forgotten Texas, co-authored with Tommy LaVergne from Rice. In 2005, Joyce was invited to read her works at The World Congress of Poets in Beijing, China.

In 1998 Joyce married John McDonald, also a Rice graduate and former boyfriend from her college days. They enjoyed 4 wonderful years together before he passed away.

Joyce was an Elder in her church, St. Andrew's Presbyterian, for many years and was instrumental in starting and directing the Mother's Day Out program from 1968 to 1972. It was later incorporated into the current Children's Place Day School.

Throughout her life, Joyce never lost her indomitable spirit. Her laughter will echo forever in those who knew and loved her.

Joyce is survived by her five children: Tom Hardy, Jr., Lynn Brotherton (Joe), Buck Hardy (Sally), Mike Hardy (Mitzi), and Larry Hardy (Suzanne), as well as her sister, Bettye Pennington, 13 grandchildren, and 17 great grandchildren.

There will be a private interment for family Saturday, April 7, followed by a public memorial service Sunday, April 8 at 3 PM in the sanctuary of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 5308 Buffalo Speedway. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to the charity of your choice, Rice University Athletic Department, or St. Andrews Presbyterian Church.