



## Marilyn Jo (Steele) Branson

August 27, 1938 - November 18, 2018

Marilyn Jo (Steele) Branson was born August 27, 1938, in Lebanon, Cooke County, Indiana, to Hobert Franklin and Lola Hannah (Ramsey) Steele. She was one of eight children who grew up in Indiana. She attended New Winchester High School and graduated Class of 1956. After high school, she worked as a secretary for Anderson Box Company. At a friend's wedding, she met the love of her life, Louis Frederick Branson. They married on her birthday in 1960 and had three children: Bruce, Tim, and Julie.

Marilyn was a stay-at-home mom, one of the hardest jobs a woman can have! With a loving heart, she made sure every need of her family was met. When the kids got older, she began volunteering at Oaklandon Christian Church, where she was a member. She taught Sunday school, sang in the choir, worked as a secretary for them and even served as a Deaconess. Marilyn was very involved in the kids' schools where she spent many years as room mom and helped with the annual school carnival. Marilyn never met a stranger. She and Lou enjoyed spending time with friends and family. Being from such a large family, she always loved attending family reunions, Christmas and Thanksgiving gatherings. She was known for her apple cake, Robert Redford dessert, and homemade noodles. When visiting her, you knew that you wouldn't leave with an empty stomach.

In 1984, Lou's job brought the family to Mesquite, Texas, where they have remained ever since. Marilyn had a caregiver's heart and loved to help others. She cared for children in her home that became part of her family. When her own children became adults and began having families of their own, she became "Grandma". Her heart only filled more with love once these grandkids came along. Family was most important to her. Marilyn had a special way of making her loved ones feel like the center of her universe. Famous for her infectious smile, warm hugs, and the way she would squeeze her loved ones' hands, her loving heart was the backbone of an incredibly close family.

When she had down time, she enjoyed cross stitching, crocheting, and quilting. She enjoyed watching basketball and football. If she wasn't at home, you could find her and Lou attending kids' and grandkids' events. She enjoyed collecting Precious Moments

figurines, Beanie Babies, and State Coins. She had a competitive spirit and enjoyed playing games, especially "Euchre." You could catch her listening to old hymns, The Carpenters, Neil Diamond, Lawrence Welk, and "Ol' Blue Eyes" Frank Sinatra.

She had a strong faith that carried her throughout her life, especially during her fights with polio (as a child), colon cancer, breast cancer, and Alzheimer's. We thank the Lord we had her for so many years.

On Sunday, November 18, 2018, Marilyn Jo Branson, 80, of Mesquite, Texas was called Home. She was greeted in Heaven by her parents: Hobert and Lola Steele; her siblings: Marvin Steele; Melvin Steele; Mildred Pulliam and her husband Harry; Margaret Kehrt and her husband Gene; Donald Steele; and Roy Steele and his wife Nancy.

Marilyn's life and legacy will continue to be remembered and celebrated by her loving husband of 58 years: Lou Branson of Mesquite, TX; children: Bruce Branson and wife Sharon of Rowlett, TX, Tim Branson of Waxahachie, TX, and Julie Ford and husband Mike of Rowlett, TX; sister: Martha Smith and husband Fred of Speedway, IN; sisters-in-law: Luella Steele of New Winchester, IN; and Norma Jean Steele of New Winchester, IN; grandchildren: Joshua, Alyssa, Jacob, Camden, Savannah and Lindsey; great-grandchildren: Kyland and Jade; and a host of loving relatives and close friends.

Funeral service will be held 1:00pm Saturday, November 24, 2018, at Reflections at Rest Haven Funeral Home – Rockwall Location with Dr. Russell Rogers officiating. Interment will follow at Rest Haven Memorial Park. Pallbearers are Bruce Branson, Tim Branson, Mike Ford, Joshua Branson, Jacob Branson, and Camden Ford. Honorary pallbearers are Alyssa Branson, Savannah Ford, Kyland Branson, Lindsey Collins, and Jade Collins-Sareen. The family will receive friends Friday evening at The Gathering at Rest Haven Funeral Home – Rockwall Location from 6:00 to 8:00pm. Memorials in Marilyn's name may be made to the American Cancer Society at [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org) or Alzheimer's Association at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org).

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the hospice staff for the excellent care of our family.

# Cemetery

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## Rest Haven Memorial Park

2500 State Highway 66  
East  
Rockwall, TX, 75087

# Events

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**NOV 23** **Gathering** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

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The Gathering at Rest Haven Funeral Home - Rockwall  
Location

2500 State Highway 66 East, Rockwall, TX, US, 75087

**NOV 24** **Funeral Service** 01:00PM

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Reflections at Rest Haven Funeral Home - Rockwall  
Location

2500 State Highway 66 East, Rockwall, TX, US, 75087

# Comments

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“ Marilyn was the sweetest lady. I remember her always laughing and always getting tickled by everything. She is and was the best mom; she made me feel like a daughter. Loved making cookies, playing games and just talking with her. She had a zest for life, her family and friends. I will miss her always; she was the best! I pray for peace for Louis, Bruce, Tim, Julie and families. May she be at peace and free.

**Teresa Ewers** - November 24, 2018 at 12:09 PM

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“ Aunt Marilyn was always smiling and radiant. She made the meanest meat loaf this side of Heaven. She always made meatloaf for the Steele reunion in Lebanon park and that was the highlight of the reunion food. We always thought she should have been a professional model, and from what her family is like, I think she did become a professional model, a model of Christian motherhood. It will be such a beautiful homecoming when we can all see each other again in God's presence, no pain, cancer or memory problems. My mother, Norma Steele had tears when I told her of Marilyn's passing, the first I have seen from her in many months as she struggles with dementia of her own. She expressed her sympathy and wanted me to pass it along to the family which I do with this note.

Dale Steele, nephew

**Dale Steele** - November 22, 2018 at 12:44 PM

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“ Our precious Mamaw. We love you with all our hearts.

**brenda Elam** - November 21, 2018 at 08:38 AM

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“ A wonderful, sweet lady who will be missed by many!

**Amy Fields Whitsell** - November 20, 2018 at 06:43 PM

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“ Aunt Marilyn was recovering from polio as a teenager during my pre-school years. She was at home with Mama, out of school, where I visited as often as possible because I loved her so much - she was my heroine and mentor. I remember looking at her in awe because she was so beautiful, ALWAYS had a warm smile, and treated me so kindly. She would play paper dolls with me for hours, fix my hair, and paint my

nails. I felt loved by her. What teenager really pays that much attention to a pre-school niece? My beloved Aunt Marilyn! She had a heart of gold, just as her mother did - my Mama Steele. I have always cherished my memories of time with her, and am so grateful to have her influence in my life - glory to God.

**Donna J Pond** - November 20, 2018 at 06:09 PM