



Martha Joan McKay

April 5, 1952 - November 15, 2025

Martha Joan “Nonie” McKay, 73, passed away surrounded by family on November 15, 2025, in Cheney, Washington. Born on April 5, 1952, in Ft. Benning, Georgia, she lived a life marked by deep devotion to her family, enduring friendships, and a generous spirit that touched all who knew her.

Known affectionately as “Nonie” to her family down South and Joan to her family here, she was the daughter of Ruby Bolton and grew up surrounded by the warmth of her Southern roots. In 1970, she married the love of her life, Lauren McKay. Together they embarked on a new chapter, moving from Columbus, Georgia to Medical Lake, Washington. In 1976, they settled in Cheney when Lauren joined the Cheney Fire Department. Though leaving her family in Georgia was difficult, Joan embraced her new home with grace and resilience. She and Lauren built a life filled with love and community in Washington.

Joan dedicated over three decades of service to the State of Washington. Her work ethic and commitment were matched only by her loyalty to those around her. She was always ready to lend a hand or offer a listening ear—whether it was helping with errands or simply making a phone call to check in. Her selflessness was unwavering; she consistently put others’ needs before her own.

Family was at the heart of everything Joan did. She is lovingly remembered by her daughter Shannon Aris and husband Karl; son Shaun McKay and wife Jeriann; and grandchildren Zachary, Melissa, Hunter, Jace, and Jordyn. Her sister Phyllis Moon and brother Eddie Higgins also survive her, along with many beloved nephews, nieces, and cousins who held a special place in her heart.

She is reunited in peace with her husband, Lauren McKay; Mother Ruby Bolton; sisters Sharon and Patricia; and niece Deborah (Debbie), whose memories she carried dearly throughout her life.

Joan found joy in simple pleasures such as cheering for EWU and University of Georgia football games, rooting for the Seahawks on Sundays, enjoying lunch outings with friends, and spending cherished time with her family. Whether as a daughter, wife, mother, sister, friend, or her favorite, as Nana—she wore each role with pride and love.

Her kindness left an indelible mark on everyone fortunate enough to know her. May her memory bring comfort to those who loved her and serve as a reminder of the power of compassion and connection.

A Funeral will be held on November 22, 2025, at 01:00 PM at Cheney Funeral Chapel, 1632 W 1ST Cheney, WA 99004. Reception to follow at Cheney Congregational Church, 423 N 6th St, Cheney, WA 99004.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

NOV **22**. 1:00 PM (PT)

Cheney Funeral Chapel
1632 W 1st St.
Cheney, WA 99004
(509) 235-2992
<https://www.cheneyfuneral.com/>

Tribute Wall

KA

“ I will always remember her kindness to me and my children. Her warm hugs and her love. She was a wonderful lady and will be dearly missed always. May she no longer be in pain and be happy reunited with her beloved Lauren now. My love to Shannon, Shaun, Zach, Melissa Karl and everyone during this time....lots of love Kelly and Derek xoxoxoxo

Kelly Aris - November 18, 2025 at 04:42 PM

PM

Nonie was my baby sister, and I can fully agree that she loved big and forgave easily. I am so thankful that in the last months of her life she reached out to me to resolve some issues that I now deeply regret. She reminded me that family and love were the most important things in the world. I will carry her in my heart until I join her and love her forever.

Phyllis Moon - November 19, 2025 at 12:48 AM

DH

Joan is a loving and compassionate spirit. I met her while working at Lakeland Village. She cared for LV's residents and fellow workers.

Duwane Huffaker - November 20, 2025 at 08:32 PM

KM

Joan was a very kind and loving and was a great co-worker she will be greatly missed.

Karen McConnell - November 22, 2025 at 06:50 PM