



JOAN ROPER DORSETT COUCH

DEC 22, 1939 - JAN 10, 2025



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JOAN ROPER DORSETT COUCH

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PERRY –

Joan Roper Dorsett Couch, 85, passed away peacefully on Friday, January 10, 2025, as she was called home to her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2025, at First Baptist Church of Perry. Visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m. with the service following at 11:00 a.m. with Rev. Dr. Traci Brinson officiating. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery immediately following the service. In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests contributions in Joan's memory to First Baptist Church of Perry, 1105 Main Street, Perry, Georgia, 31069.

Joan was born in Atlanta Georgia, to the late Elvin and Robert Lafayette Roper on December 22, 1939. The youngest of two children, Joan's family moved to Perry when she was three years old after her parents accepted positions to work at Robins Air Force Base. After graduating from Perry High School, Joan received a BS degree from Georgia Women's College at Milledgeville. Soon after graduation, she began a 32-year career as a stewardess with Delta Airlines in Atlanta. Traveling and seeing the world was a lifelong passion for Joan.

In 1977, Joan married Ralph Anthony Dorsett, making their home in Perry. Joan and Ralph welcomed their only child, Ralph Anthony 'Rad' Dorsett, Jr., in 1979. Rad was the sunshine of their lives and brought them abundant joy.

Joan loved to entertain, garden, and was a member of many social clubs throughout her life. She loved to nurture and manicure her garden and yard dotting over her camellias, roses, and daylilies with each season. Joan took great pride in her camellias, which were frequent award-winners at camellia shows in the area. She was a proud and active member of the Perry Garden Club and the Middle Georgia Camellia Society.

Joan was also an active member of the Beltista Club of Perry, a ladies' service organization, with whom she volunteered on various community projects and events through the years, including



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their most popular shows, Antiques at the Crossroads and the Spring Garden Show, both of which raised thousands of dollars for charitable organizations in Houston County. Joan started and hosted the first meeting of the Dogwood Dames Chapter of the Red Hat Society in the Perry area. She also began what is now known as the Neighborhood Watch program for her subdivision. Following her retirement from Delta, Joan was a weekly columnist for the Houston Home Journal sharing her experiences and conversations around town, just as the column's title, "Just Visiting," indicated. A lifelong member of First Baptist Church of Perry, she was also a member of the Patterson Sunday School Class. She enjoyed serving at the church in many areas through the years, with her most recent involvement on the committee to make special blankets and deliver them to cancer patients.

One of Joan's most passionate projects was the creation of the 'Be R.A.D.ical' Buckle Up campaign following the untimely death of their son in 1993. She spent time appearing at many speaking engagements and distributing thousands of bumper stickers, encouraging everyone to always be safe and use seat belts in a vehicle.

Joan's love of cars and her membership in the Middle Georgia Mercedes Club led her to meet Thomas Miller "Tommy" Couch, and they married on April 16, 2011. Making their home in Perry, Joan and Tommy shared a mutual fondness for cars and enjoyed exhibiting in car shows, winning multiple awards throughout the Southeast. Joan was also a member of the Ocmulgee Region Porsche Club of America and the Corvair Society of Georgia, where she delightfully displayed her very first car, a 1964 Corvair.

Tommy was Joan's great last love, and this was always evident when you were with her. She was never shy to express her adoration, gratitude, and love for Tommy.

Joan was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of twenty-nine years, Ralph Anthony Dorsett, Sr.; and her son, Ralph Anthony 'Rad' Dorsett, Jr.

Left to cherish the memories they made with Joan are her loving and devoted husband of fourteen years, Tommy Couch of Perry; her daughters, Sammi Couch Caruso of Orlando, Florida, and Elyse Couch (Steve Barker) of Gray, Georgia; her bonus daughter, Jenny Ledger (Lee) of Perry; her grandchildren, Kate Caruso, Austin Caruso, Quentin Caruso; her bonus grandchildren, Daniel Ledger, and Rebecca Ledger; her sister, Nancy Roper Varner (Tommy) of Indianapolis, Indiana; and two nephews and their families.



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Condolences for the family may be left in the online guestbook at www.watsonhunt.com. Watson-Hunt Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements.






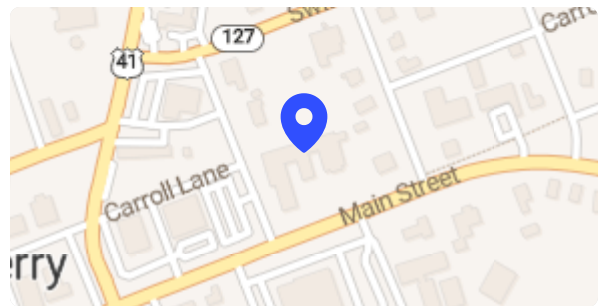
Events

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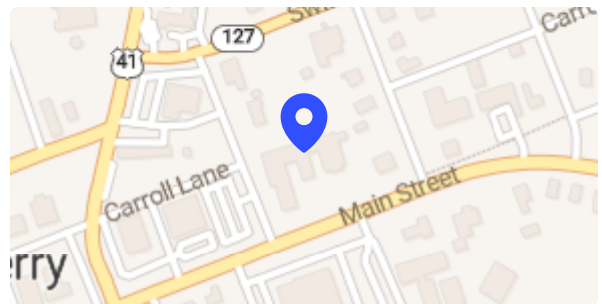
Visitation

-  **Saturday**, January 18, 2025
-  10:00 AM ET
-  **First Baptist Church - Perry**
1105 Main Street, Perry GA 31069





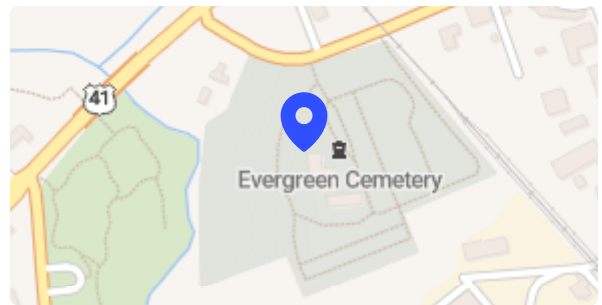
Funeral

-  **Saturday**, January 18, 2025
-  11:00 AM ET
-  **First Baptist Church - Perry**
1105 Main Street, Perry GA 31069



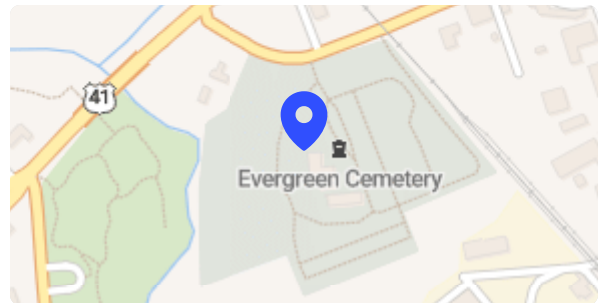
Burial

-  **Saturday**, January 18, 2025
-  **Evergreen Cemetery**
720 Main Street, Perry GA 31069



Cemetery Details

-  **Evergreen Cemetery**
720 Main Street, Perry GA 31069





Tribute Wall

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PB

Pat Boterweg posted:

I learned of Joan's passing in my recent GA College & State University's Connection Magazine for Alumni and Friends. I went to HS and WCG with her. She was so kind and generous and lovely inside and out; she often gave me rides home to Perry. Ralph, Rad and Joan visited us when we lived in Seoul, South Korea. We were so impressed with Rad and so sad when he passed. She has a forever place in my heart. Pat Adams Boterweg

July 24 at 7:48 PM

LD

Luci Daniel posted:

So very sad to learn that this warm soul has passed. The first time I met her it seemed like I had found an old friend that had been away a short time. She was the most endearing sweet soul I have ever met. She'll be missed in this world.

May 26 at 8:11 AM

WH

William Harrison posted:

Joan and I were close and dear friends during high school and collegiate years. She had a winning smile and contagious laugh. We shared many good times together. Her passing deeply saddens me and leaves a void affecting all of us. Sincerest of condolences to her family.

January 18 at 12:27 PM

NJ

Nan Johnson posted:

I remember Joan as a warm person and a great conversationalist. I loved to sit next to her at the dinner parties of the Middle GA Camellia Society. I send my deepest condolences to her family.

January 17 at 12:42 PM



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CH

Charley Turk Harold posted:

I met Ms. Joan in middle school, and on occasion, she and Mr. Ralph wood look after my brother and I when my Mom, who was also a flight attendant for Delta was working. They let us ride in their cool vintage cars, she encouraged me to continue to learn to sew, helping me make a few special projects, and taught me a little about her cherished flowers. Just this past week, I finally pulled out a 1960s vintage metal sled that was Mrs. Joan's mom's to enjoy the snow with my kiddos. I smiled and thought of her as I, for the first time since her garage sale back in 2000, finally got to enjoy it. She was so kind to help my mom and take care of us and teach us like she did. I'm grateful for her!

January 15 at 5:07 PM



Anonymous sent a Multicolor Pastel Sympathy Floor Basket to the COUCH family.



January 15 at 10:04 AM

CD

Cayetano & Grace Dizon posted:

Tommy, we grieve with you on the untimely passing of Joan. May you find comfort and strength from your family and love ones. We offer our prayers and deepest sympathy. Joan is with the Lord! She is safely home in God's Eternal Kingdom. God bless. Cay & Grace Dizon

January 14 at 11:50 AM

MG

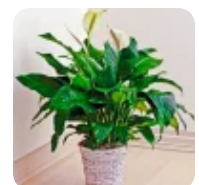
Mia Geiger posted:

Joan was such a warm, vibrant, energetic light. She welcomed me warmly when I came to Perry to marry John, and I loved seeing her around town. She was always doing something spectacular with great enthusiasm. She was a ball of sunshine and positivity, always dressed to the nines and driving her beloved cars. What a Southern lady with some sass! I have such fond memories of Joan. She will be greatly missed—my prayers and condolences to her family. Mia Geiger

January 14 at 10:33 AM



Anonymous sent a Floor Plant for Sympathy to the COUCH family.



January 14 at 8:31 AM



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Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of JOAN.



January 14 at 8:31 AM



Elic Purvis posted:

Tommy, Sara and the Purvis Family are all sending our sincere condolences to you, Elyse, and the family during this difficult time. We are praying for peace and comfort to you in the days to come, and are sending our love.

January 14 at 7:50 AM



Keri Wilbur posted:

Such great memories with Rad in High School and subsequently with Mrs. Joan and Mr. Ralph, even allowing me to use one of their beautifully prized older vehicles to leave my wedding reception. It is often that I think of Rad and continuously honor his memory by buckling up. Condolences to the family; she will be greatly missed.

January 14 at 7:13 AM



Phil And Sandy Smith posted:

We had many happy times with Joan and her family, through many heartaches and joys. She made a great "Red Hat Lady"! She will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

January 14 at 6:56 AM



Billy/Connie Grinstead posted:

Tommy and family, our thoughts and prayers are with you in the passing of Joan. We are so blessed to have known her. She was an absolute joy to be around and we will always cherish the sweet memories we have of her. She brought love and light to everyone. Tommy, we have such fond memories of spending time with you and Joan. You were so devoted to her and she loved you dearly. May God comfort each of you as only he can.

January 13 at 7:14 PM



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BN

Bonita Nottingham posted:

Mrs. Joan and I (Bonita) met 3yrs ago I became fond of her, we laughed, shopped, pampered ourselves together, shared meals and the most honest and memorable conversations, she is and will always be a friend to me unlike anyone I ever had... Mrs Couch is what I called her, the memories and the time spent meant the world to me, forever in my heart ❤️🙏love you Mrs. Couch.

January 13 at 5:11 PM

JC

Judy Hall-Crowe posted:

Joan and I worked at the Houston Hone Journal together and once took a photo of our two Corvairs together while sitting on the hoods of the cars. "Two old broads sitting on two old cars". I will miss her sweet smile and her joyful laugh. See you in Heaven Joan.

January 13 at 2:08 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring JOAN by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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