



Joan Barbara Atwell Duckett

March 2, 1935 - March 5, 2026

Joan Barbara Atwell Duckett died peacefully on March 5, 2026, in Easton, Maryland, after a brief illness. She had just turned 91 on March 2nd.

Joan was born in Baltimore, Maryland on March 2, 1935. She lived there for the first year of her life until her family built a home and moved to Glen Burnie, Maryland. She was an only child. She grew up in Glen Burnie and graduated valedictorian from Glen Burnie High School in 1953. She worked for the FBI and then Westinghouse until she married the love of her life, George S. Duckett, in 1956. They settled in Arnold, Maryland where they raised their two daughters. After 56 years in Arnold, Joan and George moved into a cottage at William Hill Manor (now Acts Bayleigh Chase Retirement Community) in Easton, Maryland. Joan served as librarian at Bayleigh Chase for several years.

Joan was a stay-at-home mom until their youngest daughter entered Belvedere Elementary School. Then she took a part-time job with the Anne Arundel County Public School System at Belvedere Elementary as a secretary so she could be home with the children when they were off school. Subsequently, she worked part-time at Severna Park Junior High School and Severn River Middle School. From there she worked full-time for many years as the administrative secretary to the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction at the Anne Arundel County Public School Central Office in Annapolis. Her

last position was at Broadneck High School where she served as secretary to the principal. She retired from the Anne Arundel County Public School System in 1995 after 30 years of service. She took great pride in her work and was loved by everyone she worked with.

The most important thing to Joan was family. She was the heart of her family and would do anything for them. She would decorate for every holiday – big and small. She made everything special. She loved to cook and bake and try new recipes that she shared with family and friends. Her meals and goodies were the very best and she passed her love of cooking and baking on to her daughters and granddaughter.

Music was a big part of Joan's life. She loved all kinds of music from country to classical. She played the piano and she loved to sing. She sang with the Bayleigh Chase Chorus for many years. Joan also loved photography and was always taking pictures of family and friends. Over the years, she assembled many photo albums filled with pictures of family, friends, and the many vacations she took with George. She also had an interest in genealogy and researched both her family history and George's family history. She created detailed books documenting their respective family histories going back to the 1800s. Her family will always cherish the albums and books she created.

Joan and George loved to travel. When their children were young, they camped frequently with family and friends. They loved the ocean and, for decades, they spent time with their family every summer in the time share they had in Ocean City. After their children were grown, they traveled all over the country visiting most of the National Parks and historic sites. They also traveled to Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean. Their favorite place of all was Saint John. One of the last things Joan said before she died was what a wonderful life she had had with family and friends.

Joan was predeceased by her parents, Catherine and Raymond Atwell, and her loving husband of 64 years, George S. Duckett.

She is survived by her daughters, Kathleen McCann (Scott), and Terry Tedore (John); her two grandchildren, Sandra McCann and Shane Sandifer; and her great grandson, George Biagini.

There will be a memorial gathering on April 18, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. in the Taylor Auditorium at Bayleigh Chase Retirement Community, 501 Dutchman's Lane, Easton, Maryland 21601.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Joan's memory to the American Cancer Society.

Tribute Wall



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Joan Barbara Atwell Duckett.*



April 16 at 03:21 PM



“ *We met Joan 5 years ago when we moved to Bayleigh Chase. I was immediately drawn to Joan and, after a 2 hour lunch, felt that I had known her forever. We became fast friends and when I was diagnosed with breast cancer two years ago Joan was one of the first friends I shared the news with.*

While visiting in her apartment, Joan gave me a small red pin that our Fitness Director had given her. It said “Attitude is everything “. I wore that pin the day of my surgery, to every chemotherapy appointment and to each radiation treatment. When I had completed treatment I returned the pin to Joan, thanked her, and told her how much strength and comfort it had given me.

We loved Joan. We will greatly miss her and she will be forever in our hearts.

Ken and Dianne Doolan

Dianne Doolan - March 25 at 05:18 PM

DS

“ Even though I have only known Joan since we worked in the Department of Instruction at the Board of Education, she was such an inspiration for me and became a very close dear friend, I truly feel like I have lost a part of me.

David and I have been so blessed to spend many occasions with Joan. Some of our favorite trips were to just be with Joan, (and George) whether it was to enjoy lunch at different restaurants or to be with her while enjoying entertainment that Bailey Chase was providing for its residents. She loved to be able to share these concerts with friends and we thoroughly enjoyed all of them.

Joan is leaving behind many wonderful memories that will never be forgotten. Being with George, the love of her life, is what she wanted.

Love you Joan❤️

Doris Shoemaker - March 15 at 09:22 AM

LM

“ Linda M. purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Joan Barbara Atwell Duckett.



Linda M. - March 10 at 08:46 AM

LM

“ Linda M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joan Barbara Atwell Duckett.

Linda M. - March 10 at 08:46 AM

DL

“ I met Joan at the central office of the Board of Education, Anne Arundel County Public Schools in 1985. We worked together in the Department of Instruction for several years. Joan's personality was friendly and welcoming. I have many great memories of her during that time. Joan was dedicated to her job and family. George was always at the forefront of her life. Joan will be dearly missed by all the people she met along the way!

Diane Lessick

Diane Lessick - March 07 at 03:58 PM

DF

“ Joan was sweet, always ready for good conversation, and, my favorite cousin. We were both only children, had the best parents, and for years referred to each other as 'sister'. That I will miss her is an understatement. Joan, my sister, I love you. Until we meet again...

Donna (Neserke) Flickinger - March 07 at 08:02 AM

LC

“ Larry and Brooke Clayton purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Joan Barbara Atwell Duckett.



Larry and Brooke Clayton - March 06 at 09:02 PM

LC

“ Larry and Brooke Clayton planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joan Barbara Atwell Duckett.

Larry and Brooke Clayton - March 06 at 09:02 PM