



Joy Thompson Lannum

January 5, 1935 - February 6, 2025

Joy (Thompson) Lannum, age 90, of West Memphis, Arkansas, died Thursday, February 6, 2025.

Born January 5, 1935, in Memphis, Tennessee, to Ray Sigsbee Thompson and Mattye (Hamer) Thompson. Joy lived in Memphis, Havana, Cuba, and Mexico City, embracing new cultures and perspectives. She received her master's degree from the University of Memphis and had a lifelong career as a teacher and commercial artist.

Fluent in Spanish, she believed language was the key to understanding culture and immersed herself fully in both. She taught Art, Spanish, and Latin for over twenty years at St. Benedict at Auburndale (formerly The Auburndale School) in Cordova, Tennessee, where she was known for her creativity, high expectations, and ability to inspire students.

She is survived by her son, Coleman Lannum III, as well as several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and many dear friends. She was preceded in death by her son, Tracy R. Lannum, in 2021.

To honor Joy's wishes, there will be no public memorial service. Stevens Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. You may log on to stevensfuneralhome.net for the online registry.

Tribute Wall



“ I remember Joy loving za'taar (thyme) when we gave her some when we were young. She always embraced other cultures, their foods, and languages. She always enjoyed listening to our concerns when we were in college. I'll always remember her sweet comments on social media.

Najwa Al-Aswad - February 12, 2025 at 11:21 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Joy



Coleman Lannum - February 11, 2025 at 04:26 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Joy



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“ Remembrance:

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Coleman Lannum - February 11, 2025 at 04:15 PM