



## Joanne Marguerite Crockett

August 2, 1936 - September 22, 2021

Joanne Marguerite Crockett rode into heaven on the evening of September 22, 2021, with her good friend and caregiver by her side. Joanne was born in Antioch, IL on August 2, 1936, to Charles and Anna (Vistain) Paddock.

Joanne always had a love for all animals, but horses were her favorite. At a young age her father bought her a pony, and she began riding. A few years after graduating high school, Joanne attended college and received a bachelor's degree in elementary education. After college she taught school while attending horse shows. Joanne met the love of her life, Bruce Crockett, when he asked her if he and his horse could hitch a ride to the show. Love blossomed from there and she married her cowboy.

After they were married, they moved to California. While in California Joanne taught school and she and Bruce helped Dan Gainey Sr. establish his ranch with Arabian horses. They left California and settled in Van Alstyne, Texas. It was in Texas where the two of them started Crockett Training Center. During their years together running the farm, they celebrated remarkable success with not only regional wins but national as well.

Joanne was a fantastic horsewoman, teacher to many, and a judge. Her respected judgment was requested at horse shows all over including US, Canadian and Youth Nationals, and throughout region nine. Joanne was also

invited to judge internationally in Australia, Brazil, and England. In addition to Arabians, she judged miniature horses, Morgan's, Gypsy Vanners and Friesians. In 1991 Joanne and Bruce were both inducted into AHA's Judges Hall of fame.

Joanne's love for the Arabian horse and all the friends she met on her way through life were endless. Joanne will be forever missed by many. Her legacy lives on in all the lives she touched.

Joanne was preceded in death by her husband Bruce Crockett.

Joanne is survived by her cousin Marguerite Warner of Antioch IL, her second cousins Andrea Kitowski, Donna Warner, and Christine Forster all of Antioch IL, Brother-in-law and sister-in-law Jean and Carol McKee of North Dakota, and her beloved horses Angle Under Fire and BJ Mexicali Rose.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Arabian Horseman Distress Fund at <https://www.horsemensdistressfund.com> or the Friends of Vail Foundation at <https://secure.squarespace.com/checkout/donate?donatePageId=5b5954c3f950b7844b2641e8>.

Visitation will be held at the Slay Funeral Home 400 S HWY 377 Aubrey, TX on October 2, 2021, at 1pm with a Celebration of life to follow at 2pm. Private graveside service will be in Antioch IL. Online condolences may be shared at [www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com](http://www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com).

Arrangements are under the direction of Terri Slay and Slay Memorial Funeral Center.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 2. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Slay Memorial Chapel of Aubrey  
400 South Highway 377  
Aubrey, TX 76227  
info@slaymemorial.com  
<http://www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

OCT 2. 2:00 PM (CT)

Slay Memorial Chapel of Aubrey  
400 South Highway 377  
Aubrey, TX 76227  
info@slaymemorial.com  
<http://www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall

TP

“ I’m pretty sure I’ve known Joanne my entire life. But, my favorite moment was a few years ago at a show in Tyler when I was showing a Friesian stallion for a client. I asked Joanne if she had ever been on a Friesian stallion before. Her entire face lit up the arena and she told me “it had always been a bucket list experience”. So, I grabbed a chair and helped her up. Her smile says it all!! Of course she said “Tommy, don’t you dare let go of him!!”



Tom Pollard - October 01, 2021 at 06:11 PM

MH

“ When I was informed of Joanne’s passing my friend said “our mentors are all leaving us.” Joanne was a mentor, a friend, a teacher, a cohort, and so many other things. You will search long and hard to find a more respected horsewoman and judge. She and others like her are leaving the Arabian horse business to the next generation which she helped form and teach. She will always be missed and never replaced. She and Bill Harwood are in front of the fireplace surrounded by their dogs sharing a scotch.

mari hellriegel - October 01, 2021 at 10:01 AM

CC

Joanne was quietly awesome. Helping her husband, and her clients children as well as she had the parent. I owe to Joanne the respect of a hard working leader and teacher.  
Carole Christensen

Carole Christensen - March 27, 2025 at 07:49 PM

VC

“ *Joanne joined our family via her dads marriage to my Grandma Helga McKee, we loved adding an AUNT, and I think she enjoyed gaining nieces and nephews, she will be missed, ride on Cowgirl* 💕💕

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**vicky cayko** - September 27, 2021 at 09:51 PM

KC

“ *Joanne was a great judge. I showed under her many times and I was impressed not only with her fairness, but she actually enjoyed Judging and was so enthusiastic. She always had kind words and a smile for the exhibitors. She will be missed in the Show Ring.*



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**Karen Campbell** - September 27, 2021 at 02:36 PM