



Jo Ann Critcher Vanderford Alessandrini

July 10, 1935 - November 21, 2024

Jo Ann Critcher Vanderford Alessandrini, 89, of Salisbury, NC passed away Thursday, November 21, 2024 at her residence.

Born July 10, 1935 in Watauga County, NC she was the daughter of the late Willie Mack “Will” Critcher and Verl Hazel Long Critcher and stepmother, Mary Christine Harrison Critcher.

Jo Ann was a graduate of Watauga High School and Presbyterian Nursing School. She married Billy Vanderford in 1958, with whom she had their four children and was a homemaker up until his passing. As a widow she then began to work as an ER nurse with Rowan Memorial Hospital and then later with the VA Hospital as a psychiatric nurse for 20 years. Jo Ann was a woman of great faith and a member of Salem Lutheran Church.

Known as a classy yet tough mountain girl with the kindest smile, soft touch of love, wisdom and gentle guidance as she cared and nurtured for all as a nurse, pastors wife, matriarch and friend. Jo Ann was known for stealing the show with her award winning quilts winning ‘Best in Show’ and ‘Viewer’s Choice’ at local shows. She was loved and admired for her handwork (needlework, ribbon work, embroidery, and beading). To her family and others she was a loving wife, mother, grandmommy, “Hot G Mommy”, sister, and aunt.

Preceding her in death are husbands, Rev. Billy Lee “Bill” Vanderford and Enrico “Rico” Alessandrini; son, John Vanderford; sister, Lavon Caudill, brothers, JW Critcher, Weldon Critcher, Mack Critcher; and, son in law, Gary

Sims Jr.

Those left to cherish her memory are her daughters, Lisa Sims of Salisbury, NC, Linda Corcoran (Brian) of Brighton, CO, Judy Jones (Kenny) of Mt. Ulla, NC; brother, Bruce Cook (Sharon), sister, Wanda Scott and (Bob), sister, Laura Higgins (Bobby); grandchildren, Natalie Morgan, Wesley Jones (Meredith), Anna Winslow (Zeb) Brianna Corcoran, Erin Corcoran; great grandchildren, Landon Morgan, Madeleine Morgan, Wade Jones, Lydia Morgan, Zeb Winslow, Ava Jones, Tori Jones, and Ezra Winslow; sister in law, Margaret Critcher; along with many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held at 11am, Tuesday November 26, 2024 at Salem Lutheran Church parlor. Memorial service will follow at 12:30pm in the Salem Lutheran Church sanctuary with Pastor Dawn Rister of St. Paul Lutheran Church Pomaria and Pastor Shannon Critcher (nephew) of Millers Creek Baptist Church officiating.

Memorials may be made to Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, 5080 Sherrills Ford Rd., Salisbury, NC 28147; American Cancer Society, 1901 Brunswick Ave., Charlotte, NC 28207, or to a local hospice organization of choice.

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at www.summersettfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **26**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Salem Lutheran Church
Sherrills Ford Rd.
Salisbury, NC 28147

Memorial Service

NOV **26**. 12:30 PM (ET)

Salem Lutheran Church
Sherrills Ford Rd.
Salisbury, NC 28147

Tribute Wall

PB

“ *Ann was a great nurse and friend to all, I am so sorry for your loss. Patti Blue RN*

patti blue - December 02, 2024 at 10:16 PM

SG

“ *Dearest Judy, so sorry to hear about your mom. Prayers for you and your family at this difficult time. Shelly Wilhelm Galloway*

Shelly Wilhelm Galloway - November 25, 2024 at 05:11 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Jo Ann Critcher Vanderford Alessandrini.*



November 24, 2024 at 05:53 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jo Ann Critcher Vanderford Alessandrini.*

November 24, 2024 at 05:53 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jo Ann Critcher Vanderford Alessandrini.*



November 23, 2024 at 04:50 PM



“ *I fondly remember Joann and her yearly get together. My dad, Quentin, and my family would enjoy the tractor ride to see the animals at Lazy 5. I didn't know her well, but she was always welcoming and you could tell how much she loved her family. Prayers for peace in the days ahead. Kim Turnmire*

Kim Turnmire - November 23, 2024 at 01:33 PM



“ *Shell Point Baptist Church Family purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Jo Ann Critcher Vanderford Alessandrini.*



Shell Point Baptist Church Family - November 23, 2024 at 11:23 AM



“ *Shell Point Baptist Church Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jo Ann Critcher Vanderford Alessandrini.*

Shell Point Baptist Church Family - November 23, 2024 at 11:23 AM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jo Ann Critcher Vanderford Alessandrini.*



November 23, 2024 at 11:19 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jo Ann Critcher Vanderford Alessandrini.

November 23, 2024 at 11:19 AM