



Jo Ann Hagan Bates

July 25, 1941 - January 4, 2026

Jo Ann Hagan Bates died January 4, 2026 at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital. She was preceded in death by her husband William Howard Bates, Jr. of Albany, by her parents Albert Quincy Hagan, Sr. and Dorris Horton Hagan of Tifton, GA and her grandparents Charlie Rawlins Horton and Dora Horne Horton of Herndon, GA and John Sheppard Hagan and Mary Ann Williams Hagan of Screven County, GA

She is survived by her son, William Howard Bates, III and his partner Emerson Moore of New York, New York and her daughter Bronwyn Georgia Bates and son-in-law Burt Sorrells of Albany, GA, her sister Mary Hagan (Diane Fischer) of Sacramento, CA and brother Al Q. Hagan, Jr. (Linda) of Bogart, GA.

A native of Ocilla, GA, she attended school in Camilla and graduated from Swainsboro High School. She attended Emory at Oxford and graduated from the University of Georgia with a BS in Elementary Education and a minor in Library Education. She completed graduate work at the University of Georgia obtaining her Masters in Media and her Specialist 6th Year Degree in Instructional Technology.

After their marriage in 1963, 2nd Lt. Bates' military assignment took them to Okinawa where she taught 6th grade at Christ the King International School for two years. While there she began organizing the first library for the school. They returned to Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Aberdeen, Maryland for a short tour and then to Osan Air Force Base in Korea for a year. She did

volunteer work at the Non-Commissioned Officers Club and taught classes at the University of Maryland branch on base. During that time she lived off base in a Korean house in the village of Osan. After Korea, they were stationed at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, AL where she was the librarian at two elementary schools. One of the libraries was functional, the other was being completely reorganized. In 1969, they were transferred to Pueblo, CO where Bill taught ROTC at Southern Colorado State College and Jo Ann was assistant librarian at South High School. In 1970, while living in Pueblo, their son, William was born.

They returned to graduate school in Athens, GA in the fall of 1970 at the end of Bill's military time. Bill received his Specialist Degree in Educational Administration and Jo Ann worked toward her Masters Degree in Library Education.

In the summer of 1971, they returned to Albany, GA where Jo Ann was a stay at home mom until William was in the second grade when she was hired as Media Specialist at Riverview Academy for several years until their daughter, Bronwyn was born in 1979. In 1981, Jo Ann became Media Specialist at Westover High School until her retirement in 2001. During this time she attended graduate school through a University of Georgia/Valdosta College co-operative program. Through this program she received her Masters of Education in 1974 and her Specialist of Education in 1986 from the University of Georgia.

Jo Ann was active in Beta Sigma Phi; Great Books reading group; Serendipity Garden Club; Thronateeska Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution; United Daughters of the Confederacy, Dougherty County Chapter No.187; Pierre Robert Chapter of Daughters of the American Colonists; and John Sumner Chapter of Colonial Dames Seventeenth Century. She was an active member of First Baptist Church Albany from 1972 until 2022.

Visitation will be on Friday, January 9, 2026 at Kimbrell-Stern from 1 PM till 2 PM prior to the memorial service at Kimbrell-Stern at 2 PM. The Rev. Dr.

Butch Knight will officiate. A private internment service will take place at Crown Hill Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to a favorite charity.

Cemetery Details

Crown Hill Cemetery And Mausoleum

1907 Dawson Rd
Albany, GA 31707
(229) 883-6600

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 9. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Directors
1503 Dawson Rd.
Albany, GA 31707

Memorial Service

JAN 9. 2:00 PM (ET)

Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Directors
1503 Dawson Rd.
Albany, GA 31707

Tribute Wall

AP

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends. I enjoyed working with Jo Ann at Westover and seeing her at different events in Albany in later years. Her kindness to and interest in others was evident. May you be comforted.

Anne Pate - January 09 at 11:30 AM

DB

“ Dave, Robb & Bill purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Jo Ann Hagan Bates.



Dave, Robb & Bill - January 08 at 05:51 PM

DB

“ Dave, Robb & Bill planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jo Ann Hagan Bates.

Dave, Robb & Bill - January 08 at 05:51 PM



“ Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Jo Ann Hagan Bates.



January 08 at 08:12 AM

MM

“ Marilyn and Buz Moore planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jo Ann Hagan Bates.

Marilynn and Buz Moore - January 08 at 08:12 AM

TP

“ Jo Ann was my cousin, and I was the flower girl at her wedding when I was three. She kindly sent me a photo of us on that long ago day in October, 1963, which she discovered while packing to move into her condo last spring. She included a lovely note reflecting on that day and the time that followed wherein she and Bill were separated while he served in Okinawa. I include her kind note with the photo below. She was a kind and sassy person who I wish I had more time with. She was loved and will be missed.
Teresa Oppelt Preising

Teresa O. Preising - January 07 at 11:22 AM

TP

“ Jo Ann was my cousin, and I was the flower girl at her wedding when I was three. She kindly sent me a photo of us on that long ago day in October, 1963, which she discovered while packing to move into her condo last spring. She included a lovely note reflecting on that day and the time that followed wherein she and Bill were separated while he served in Okinawa. I include her kind note with the photo below. She was a kind and sassy person who I wish I had more time with. She was loved and will be missed.
Teresa Oppelt Preising



Teresa O. Preising - January 07 at 11:17 AM

PS

“ JoAnn's sudden "exit" has left us shocked and saddened. She was such an interesting, stylish person and fun to be around. She was a great friend and one that will be sorely missed! Deepest sympathy to the family. Take comfort in knowing that she and Bill are together again. Pat Simpson

Pat Simpson - January 06 at 09:46 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Jo Ann Hagan Bates.



January 06 at 09:30 AM

DB

“ Dear Family, I have known Jo Ann for many years, initially through First Baptist Church Albany & then through DAR. We sat together at DAR meetings & luncheons & enjoyed talking with her, such a vibrant lady. Fondly, Deb Blanchard



Debbie Blanchard - January 06 at 08:48 AM

TP

“ Teresa P. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jo Ann Hagan Bates.

Teresa P. - January 05 at 10:29 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Jo Ann Hagan Bates.



January 05 at 09:41 PM



“ Heather and James Williamson purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Jo Ann Hagan Bates.



Heather and James Williamson - January 05 at 09:35 PM



“ I am heartbroken. Jo Ann has been a faithful friend, an asset to 100 Women, and certainly a lot of fun traveling to and from the Fox Theater for our season membership productions. She was a loyal friend and will be greatly missed.

Nancy Reimer - January 05 at 06:18 PM



I wasn't prepared for this news...I knew she had some health issues and had recently undergone knee replacement surgery...my heart goes out to William and Bronwyn...may you feel the beautiful undercurrent of His Peace!

Annlies Cato - January 05 at 08:11 PM

MG

Jo Ann sparkled! We treasured our times with her, whether they were Theatre nights, or shared dinners, with leftovers sent home for future meals, and with games and interesting conversations. She was vibrant, smart, witty, and kind. She made a beautiful Queen of Hearts at Theatre Albany's Phantom Fiesta in October. In September she gave Ted a great birthday card with a temporary tattoo of a skull with a birthday banner. She wrote "This tattoo is not permanent, but our friendship is." We expected to celebrate many more birthdays with her, and are devastated that our times with her have been cut so short. We're glad to remember that every time we parted, we always did so with all three of us saying "I love you!" We love you Jo Ann, and are heartbroken to say goodbye so soon.

Marilyn and Ted Gibson - January 06 at 10:08 AM