



Phyllis "Joanie" Cornelison

November 2, 1949 - February 8, 2026

Phyllis Joan (Joanie) Cornelison also known as Nana was born on Wednesday, November 2, 1949 in Paragould, Arkansas. She made her second and final trip to Heaven on Sunday, February 8, 2026 in White House, Tennessee. She was 76 years young. She is survived by her daughter : Janie (Jim) Elkins, favorite grandson : Tyler (DeNae) Elkins, granddaughter : Elise (Clint) Shipp, great-grandchildren : Amelia and Adeline Elkins, siblings : Iva Madigan, Ron Cornelison, Retha Dawson, and Gary (Jan) Cornelison, and last but not least soul sister : Brenda (Keith) Gray. She is preceded in death by her parents Eldon and Alma (Willey) Cornelison. Joanie was a member of First Baptist Church of Hendersonville. She enjoyed time in nature, whether running, playing softball or water recreation during family reunions at Lake Norfolk. "Nana Ninja" even earned a black belt in karate. Her favorite author was Jane Austen. She was also an avid movie lover with classics like Peter Pan, The Princess Bride, and October Sky topping the list. Nana never missed an opportunity to thank a veteran for their service. Politics piqued her interest later on in life and she always encouraged everyone to register to vote. During a trip to Georgia she even got to meet and attend the church service of the 39th President of the United States, Jimmy Carter, and his wife Rosalynn. Phyllis was a teacher until the very end with more than 30 years of experience. Her favorite subject to teach was math. She graduated from Grand Blanc High School in 1968. She also obtained a Bachelor of Arts with honors from The University of Michigan – Flint in 1986, and then went on to receive a

Master of Education from Michigan State University in 1992.

Graveside service will take place on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 1:00 in the afternoon at White House Memorial Gardens with Chaplin Travis Rose officiating.

Pallbearers, Jim Elkins, Tyler Elkins, Clint Shipp and Alex DePena

Honorary pallbearers: Ron Cornelison and Gary Cornelison.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that any charitable donations be made to Alive Hospice in her honor.

www.alivehospice.org

“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

Isaiah 40:31 Her Celebration of Life in Hendersonville, TN will be announced at a later date.

ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO AUSTIN & BELL 533 Highway 76 White House TN 37188 (615)672-5000 www.austinandbell.com

Cemetery Details

White House Memorial Gardens

3629 Hwy 31 W
White House, TN 37188

Previous Events

Graveside Service

FEB 10. 1:00 PM (CT)

White House Memorial Gardens
3629 Hwy 31 W
White House, TN 37188

Tribute Wall

TC

“ We are sending Love and Positive Energy to the whole Cornelison family.
Joanie was always a delight to be around and she will be greatly missed.
Todd and Nan Cummins & Family

Todd Cummins - February 10 at 06:30 PM

JE

Thanks so much, Cousin. We love you all

Janie Elkins - February 17 at 02:45 PM

JM

“ To her family, I'm so sorry for your loss. fFor the longest I thought Joannie & I were cousins. But not so.....our mom's were childhood to Sr adult best friends. I have so many wonderful childhood memories with Joannie & her family. I'll see you again sweet friend!

Jackie Mink - February 09 at 10:37 PM

JE

Thank you for sharing, Jackie. Yes! I also thought Wanda was one of Nan's sisters when I was little. LOL
We all love your family

Janie Elkins - February 17 at 02:44 PM

BL

“ Joanie was my second cousin. I always was in awe of her beauty and goodness. My condolences to her family.
Becky Cornelison Ledford

Becky Cornelison Ledford - February 09 at 09:47 PM

NM

My love and support to your family iam so sadden God will see you through love from jamaica nadine

Nadine McPherson - February 16 at 10:26 PM

JE

Thank you so much for those kind words, Becky. I just spoke to Uncle Ron who told me your familial connection. Very interesting that Sus is your mom. Momma spoke her name just a couple of weeks ago. She must have been having a memory from her childhood!

Janie Elkins - February 17 at 02:35 PM

JE

Nadine, my favorite Jamaican friend, thank you for your love and support since we met 3 years ago. We love you

Janie Elkins - February 17 at 02:41 PM

TS

“What a wonderful lady! She was such a hoot and I loved spending time with her. Love you so much!!”



Teresa Street - February 09 at 08:42 PM

JE

*We love you, Resa
Momma always had a blast with you
Thank you for sharing your Elsa and Pop with us. Sweet memories*

Janie Elkins - February 17 at 02:31 PM

TG

Janie, I am wishing you, your family, and Joanie's siblings peace & comfort. My sister Yvonne and I grew up with Joanie in the sub, Joanie was a favorite of ours. Reading her obit, she accomplished a lot, and our class of 1968 are proud to see that. My heartfelt condolences. You're in my thoughts and prayers. Tom Gibbons

Thomas (Tom) Gibbons - February 26 at 06:06 AM

JE

God bless you, Tom

Thank you for the kind words and memories of Mom.

I will be sure my aunts and uncles receive this message as well.

Janie Elkins - March 20 at 12:54 AM