

Joanne H. Hamilton

September 26, 1926 – September 23, 2022

Joanne Hartsock Hamilton, 93, of Stillwater, OK, passed away on September 23, 2022, in Stillwater, OK. She was born to Roscoe and Florence (Marr) Hartsock in Clinton, IL, on September 26, 1926. She attended Clinton Community High School. After her graduation at age 16, she and a good friend moved to Madison, WI, where she worked for two years in the office of the Dean of Education. She then was promoted and became department secretary in the Agricultural Journalism Department. It was there that she met her future husband, Ralph Hamilton. They married in 1955 and then moved to East Lansing, MI, where her husband was an agricultural editor at Michigan State University. During their time there, their daughter (Beth) and son (Drew) were born. In 1961, they moved to Knoxville, TN, where Ralph was hired as professor and head of the Agricultural Editorial and Information Office at the University of Tennessee. Approximately one month after moving there, daughter Meg was born. During their time in Tennessee, Ralph took a sabbatical; and they moved back to Madison where he was offered the position of Director of Public Information at Oklahoma State University. In 1981, Joanne began a catering service, Joanne's Emergency Meals, which was a demanding job for one person. She retired in 1996. Joanne loved music and played the saxophone in a dance band in high school, a community band in Knoxville, and in the summer band in Stillwater. She was also a frequent volunteer in community activities. Joanne was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Ralph, and two sisters, Gwendolyn and Betty. She is survived by her sister Shirley, her daughter Beth (Ruben), her son, Drew (Debbie), and her daughter Meg Coots (Jerry). She is also survived by five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.