



## Kathleen Palmer Brown Corbin

March 13, 1927 - April 19, 2021

Kathleen Palmer Brown Corbin was born in Exeter, NH on March 13, 1927, to Helen Ruth [Spillane] and Albert Addison Brown, the eldest of three, all daughters. On April 19, 2021, independent nearly to the end, she died in Asheville, NC, her beloved Blue Ridge Mountains standing watch. Over the course of her 94 years, she lived a life that was uniquely hers and hers alone, a life we honor here.

Kathleen spent her childhood in Hampton, NH, then Exeter. Upon graduating in 1945 from Exeter's high school for girls, Robinson Female Seminary, Kathleen attended Concord [NH] Hospital School of Nursing, serving briefly in the US Cadet Nurse Corps. However, after fainting in the operating theater, she decided nursing wasn't for her, and then found, if she couldn't heal a hurt, she could balance the heck out of a checkbook. So after attending McIntosh Business College in Dover, NH, she entered the world of banking, bookkeeping, secretarial and paralegal work.

Meanwhile, the brown-eyed, brown-haired, red-lipped Kathleen turned not a few heads with her looks and style, including blue-eyed, red-haired Gordon Giles Corbin, whom she married in 1950. They had their first child a year later. And at a time when it wasn't the norm, she not only kept her nine-to-five, she

supported her husband's business venture, and in 1957, Kathleen and Gordon, now with three children, including a newborn son, moved to Plaistow, NH to operate an eight-lane bowling alley.

Seven years later, in 1964, the business failed, and with six kids in tow, including a newborn daughter, they moved to Gordon's family home in Portsmouth, NH to begin again. Although frightened of the future, Kathleen did the next thing that needed doing, immediately landing a job as a legal secretary. Over the next 35 years, she remained in this field, and, during the last few, was finally recognized and compensated for the sharp paralegal she had always been. During this time, she also worked briefly as a nurse's aide, caregiver to her first grandchild, and sales associate/bookkeeper in a family-owned boutique.

Then, in September, 1999, at 72, she and Gordon left all behind and ran away to Asheville, NC, to begin yet again. They fit in seamlessly, spending the next year settling into their new home and a welcoming community. After her husband's unexpected death in 2000, Kathleen remained in Asheville, finding a rhythm in life that soothed her, and time to herself for the simple pleasures she had always loved. She continued to contribute to the welfare of others, whether by volunteering at a food pantry, or just by being a good neighbor. She kept her hands busy with crocheting and gardening, her mind busy with reading and cross-word puzzles, and her wits sharp tending to her affairs so her children wouldn't have to wonder or worry. She was grateful for family visits, and, in her last years, the daily company of her middle child. Each day, when Kathleen opened the "Asheville Times," her daughter would ask, "What's the weather in Seattle?" To which she would invariably reply, "Rain."

Kathleen will be remembered in many and different ways by those who knew

and loved her. So many! We will remember her beautiful braided rugs, the bar she set for apple pie, and family road trips to nearby parks and beaches, Saratoga Springs for the races, New York City for visits with her son and family adventures in general, Paris with her sister, Ireland with her daughter. We will remember her extraordinary work ethic, her surprising sense of humor, her ability to captivate the opposite sex, the relationships she deepened with her granddaughters, her gradual softening as the years went by. We will remember her love of reading, walking, birding, gardening, sports (spectator, anything with a ball), and, in her later years, television, lately on a big screen thanks to one daughter, with the bonus of Netflix courtesy of another. We will remember she painted by numbers so beautifully you almost couldn't tell she was coloring inside the lines.

And if, in her heart of hearts, she had wished for a different path, she did not stray far, or often, from the one she walked all these many years. She did what she could, keeping her family together, fed, clothed, and sheltered, and teaching us by example to be self-sufficient. In her "memory book," these are the last words she wanted said: "I love you all dearly, your mother, Kathleen B. Corbin."

As well as her parents and husband, Kathleen is predeceased by her younger sister, Paula [Brown] Corbin, and her son, William Addison Corbin. She is survived by her youngest sister, Sally Ann [Brown] Walker (and husband Carl) of North Hampton, NH; daughters Vicki Robinson of Portsmouth, NH, Sharon Rhodes of Portsmouth, NH, Jo-Ann Corbin of Asheville, NC, and Jennifer Corbin of Barrington, NH; son Stephen Corbin (and wife Tina) of Rochester, NH; granddaughters Stacy Robinson of Portsmouth, NH and Washington, DC, Erica Woulf (and husband Nick) of West Medford, MA, Rochelle Jones of

Portsmouth, NH, Marissa [Corbin] Chapman (and husband Aaron) of Rochester, NH, and Cynthia Marie Hansen of VA; great-grandson Jacob Woulf; niece Carol Ann Walker; nephews Gary Walker, Kent Walker and Russ Corbin; and, nieces and nephews on her husband's side, many of whom remained in touch.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry (ABCCM), a nonprofit organization working in Buncombe County to address poverty, hunger, homelessness, and health care access.

# Tribute Wall



“ Kathleen Palmer Brown Corbin

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ Jo-Anny Babe sent a virtual gift in memory of Kathleen Palmer Brown Corbin



Jo-Anny Babe - May 17, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ Miss you so much Mom !!



Jo-Anny Babe - April 24, 2022 at 03:44 PM



“ Jo-Anny Babe sent a virtual gift in memory of Kathleen Palmer Brown Corbin



Jo-Anny Babe - April 24, 2022 at 03:42 PM

JB

“ Hi there,  
Tom Brady retired today Momma. Of course, he hasn't made it official yet.  
You remember when he announced that he was leaving the Patriots when Covid started & all our sports had been cancelled. We were so excited to have a sports story to follow.  
I love you Momsy. !!!

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**Jo-Anny Babe** - January 29, 2022 at 05:33 PM

JB

“ Jo-Anny Babe lit a candle in memory of  
Kathleen Palmer Brown Corbin



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**Jo-Anny Babe** - January 29, 2022 at 05:27 PM

BL

“ Kathleen, My heart is filled with sadness at seeing your obituary online. I searched for you after I found your phone was disconnected. While searching news about you, I found a Kathleen Corbin who lives in Greenland, NH but had no phone number. I thought I'd stop by but before that, I went back online to be sure it was you and send you our usual Christmas greetings. That's when I found you had passed away.  
Knowing you and sharing has been a privilege that will not be forgotten.

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**Blanche** - December 15, 2021 at 08:57 AM

JB

*Blanche, thank you for your kind words. I had the privilege of living with her in Asheville NC for several years. Mom spoke of you often with fondness !!*

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**Jo-Anny Babe** - January 29, 2022 at 05:23 PM

JB

“ *Jo-Anny Babe sent a virtual gift in memory of Kathleen Palmer Brown Corbin*



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**Jo-Anny Babe** - November 27, 2021 at 09:59 AM

JB

“ *"Hi There"*

*Just had my first Thanksgiving without you Momma. No apple crisp this year. I had a lean cuisine & paid bills. Just another day in the calendar now. I called Ken. He sounded good. He had Marie Calendars turkey dinner...*

*You'd love Barrington Mom. I can see you now, walking to the market & the bank.*

*It's 22 degrees here Mom.... Dear God in Heaven!! So much bird activity here Mom, & night time critters !! You stay warm and Thanks for visiting me this morning... You make that Red look good !!*

*Very Truly yours,*

*Jo-Anny Babe*

*11\*27\*21*

*Go Diuuuuuuuuuuuke. Duuuuuke. !!*

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**Jo-Anny Babe** - November 27, 2021 at 09:55 AM

JC

“ Hi Momma. Tudy called today. We had a nice talk & a couple of laughs & tears. We talked about the time you two picked me up at the airport & how happy we were to see each other. Tudy asked me if I would sing with her on the phone like you used to. I did Momma. She says many nice things about you.... including.... "She kept the road hot"

So true Mom.

PS: how about those Cowboys !!

I miss you Mom !!

Love, Jo-Anny babe

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**Jo-Ann Corbin** - October 04, 2021 at 04:30 PM

JB

“ Momma, There's a Titmouse at the bird feeder... & Mom would reply... " Can the Chicadee be too far behind?"

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**Jo-Anny Babe** - September 03, 2021 at 06:07 PM

JB

“ Jo-Anny Babe lit a candle in memory of Kathleen Palmer Brown Corbin



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**Jo-Anny Babe** - September 03, 2021 at 05:59 PM

JB

“ Okay Momma,  
'Lefty' won The PGA championship, & 'The Spaniard' won The US Open..... What do you have next in mind? 'Mugu' winning Wimbledon ??  
I miss you Momma  
Jo-Anny Babe

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**Jo-Anny Babe** - June 26, 2021 at 03:13 PM

JB

“ We had a Momma bear & her 3 Cubs pick the birdfeeder clean a couple nights ago Mom. They left it standing though. I had to take the feeder in for a few days. I miss you Momma

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**Jo-Anny Babe** - May 22, 2021 at 01:25 PM

JB

“ Mom, I miss you so much !! The past 5 & 1/2 years living with you were the best of my life !!

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**Jo-Anny Babe** - May 18, 2021 at 06:21 PM

VR

“ Dear Mom, I am very much hoping you found there was nothing to be afraid of after all. Your daughter, Vicki

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**Vicki Robinson** - May 13, 2021 at 08:38 AM

JB

*V, I know she is in Heaven, receiving her rewards tenfold*

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**Jo-Anny Babe** - September 03, 2021 at 05:57 PM

JB

“ Miss you so much Momsy. Its a beautiful day here in Asheville. We have yellow Iris blooming in the front garden. The Chicadee clutch is about ready to fly the coop. And the hummingbirds have arrived.  
Thanks Momma

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**Jo-Anny Babe** - May 05, 2021 at 02:56 PM

FL

“ Thinking of your family & sending prayers to comfort & console you. May you smile as you recall special memories & times spent together.

Sincerely,  
Fran Leavitt

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**Frances Ann Leavitt** - May 05, 2021 at 11:46 AM

JB

Thank you so much Vanilla !!

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**Jo-Anny Babe** - May 05, 2021 at 02:58 PM

JB

“ The Chicadees have a clutch in their little house you have for them Momma. They are so busy and taking such good care of them !!  
Love you

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**Jo-Anny Babe** - April 30, 2021 at 03:36 PM