



## Joy Lynn Rushing-Sparks

October 20, 1963 - May 5, 2026

Joy Lynn Rushing-Sparks passed away on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, beginning her next great adventure in Heaven.

Born on October 20, 1963, in Elmhurst, Illinois, Joy was raised in Pine Bluff and later lived throughout the Little Rock area, Dallas, and Southern California, and most recently Orlando's beloved Bay Hill community, which she quickly came to love.

Joy was preceded in death by her father, James Banks Rushing; her sister, Natalie Jones-Rushing; and many beloved pets she rescued and cared for throughout her life.

She is survived by her loving husband, John Sparks; her best boy, Brady; her dear friend Summers Doonan and children Brock, Preston, and Ava Doonan; her mother, Jacquisue Carr; stepfather, Ted Carr; brothers, Steve Carr and his wife Nan, nieces, Stephanie Ryther and Jessica Lyons; her husband Franklin Lyons, grandnephews, James Ryther and Henry Lyons; and grandniece, Margo Lyons. Brother Jimmy Rushing, his wife Dinah and their children son Bryant, daughters Jennifer and Claire.

Joy lived boldly, embracing life with passion, humor, and creativity. A talented singer and entertainer, she loved music, fashion, and making people smile.

Above all, she had a deep love for animals and devoted much of her life to rescuing and caring for dogs, cats, and horses in need.

Joy loved to travel and was most joyous when doing so. Joy left a lasting impression on everyone who knew her. She will be remembered for her vibrant spirit, generous heart, and unwavering compassion for both people and animals.

She loved Paris and its fashion. She adored Italy and its Arts. Joy loved nature and all its splendor too. It captured her essence.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you honor Joy's memory by rescuing an animal in need.