

# Joan Ann Russell Gilkes



March 11, 1936 ~ July 10, 2021

Joan Ann Gilkes, 85, a New Orleans native and Baton Rouge resident, mother of four devoted

daughters, Elizabeth Macmurdo, Nancy Lovejoy (Lionel Richard), Jennifer Gilkes, Danelle Gilkes

(John Hoshman); six cherished grandchildren, Taliesin, Emily, Elyssa, Rachel, Sophia, and Sabine.

passed away on July 10th at her home surrounded by family. An artist and poet, she became

prolific after moving to Baton Rouge post-Katrina. She had a vivacious personality and always

made people around her laugh and feel appreciated and loved. She never met a stranger and

her ability to scatter joy touched the lives of many as she created her art for those she loved

and others. She freely gifted her art and poetry to family, friends, and those she just met. She

leaves behind a legacy of love. The family would like to recognize and thank those who have

cared for her medically. Dr. David Moll your loving, compassionate care of our mother has

touched us all. Dr. Heidi Sinclair, Andrew, Dietrich, and the entire staff of PACE,  
we thank you

for the excellent medical care that you provided her. Our mother loved all of you  
and we will

never be able to thank you for your kindness during these last few weeks. Denisha  
Oubre, her

hospice nurse, your kindness and support in her final hours will never be  
forgotten. A memorial

service will be scheduled for a later date and the details will be released on social  
media.