



Dr. Joy Harper Hartley Russell

May 1, 1942 - May 10, 2022

Joy Harper Hartley Russell, M.D., born May 1, 1942, Dauphin Island Alabama's beloved physician, died on May 10, 2022.

Dr. Joy was devoted to her family and to her patients. She returned to school late in life, while raising three children, to pursue her passion in medicine.

From the time of her graduation from The University of Alabama Medical School (UAB) in 1981, her family and patients were forefront and foremost.

As a female in a profession that was then primarily male, Dr. Joy was a trailblazer, succeeding due to her dedication to the art of medicine. As such, she always was willing to aid, help, and guide any of her colleagues, in training or in practice. Her heart was kind; her brain was sharp; her compassion knew no bounds.

She enjoyed the stories her patients would relay as she got to know them, and she kept up with her patients...she remembered names and details and always was glad to hear updates from them.

Dr. Joy was also a skilled artist and photographer. Many of her photos captured the scenery of her and Mack's beloved Dauphin Island, and along with a fellow photographers' photos, her sunset photos were published in the book, "Dauphin Island."

Dr. Joy also was a giver of great advice, her children say...her oft refrain was, "Nothing good ever happens after midnight. Whatever you can do after then, you can do before then."

Dr. Joy is survived by her husband James MacDonald Russell, Sr., her

children MacDonald Jr., (Marianne), Paul (Amy), Harper (Greg), and their grandchildren MacDonald III (Jenelle), Rosemary (Brock Kirby), Patrick, Mitchell, Turner, and Austin.

There will be a private family service in the near future, honoring Dr. Joy's wishes. In lieu of flowers, the family would thankfully welcome donations to St. Francis Episcopal Church, Dauphin Island.

Tribute Wall



“ Joy became my doctor but was a friend and neighbor first. She lived up to her name as she was always a joy to be around and she spread joy with her many talents. She is and will continue to be sorely missed. I love you, Joy.

Mariglen Baxter - June 03, 2022 at 09:56 AM

MM

“ I'm so sorry for the loss of a true trailblazer who knew how to live. I only met her in person once, when I interviewed her for a feature story, but she was one of my favorite subjects ever. We had kept up with each other via Facebook, and she was very helpful last year when my husband was diagnosed with brain cancer. I'm thankful to have known her.

Michelle Matthews - May 28, 2022 at 01:09 PM

NB

“ We are so sorry for your loss! We thought the world of Joy!
Much love,
Stephen and Nancy Burge

Nancy Burge - May 26, 2022 at 12:14 PM

BG

“ Mack and all the Russells,
My deepest condolences on your loss. My late wife, Ellen Wright and Joy were childhood friends, and there didn't seem to be an end to the experiences they shared. Surely there will be a wonderful reunion in heaven!

Bob Glasscock - May 22, 2022 at 12:06 PM

DM

“ There are no words for how much influence Joy had on our family - primary and extended. She was not just our physician but she was our dear friend and we loved her dearly. It's hard to imagine a world without her.

Dena and Don McKee - May 20, 2022 at 08:47 PM

MB

“ Our family will so miss this amazing lady. She was wonderful friend and Dr. She certainly touched our hearts with kindness and laughter. I hope that all at the Russell Hotel know how much we love them.

Mary Brooks - May 20, 2022 at 05:28 PM