



## Jessie Faye Sousa

December 15, 1933 - November 24, 2017

Jessie Faye Sousa, 83, went to be with her Lord on Friday, November 24, 2017 at Turlock Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, with her husband by her side, after battling for years with Alzheimer's. A wife, mother, sister, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt, cousin and friend to many, her legacy will live on.

She was born on Beckett Mountain in Arkansas on December 15, 1933 to Lonnie & Thedis Leach. Her parents were resilient and hardworking folks from the South who loved their family and God. When she was 17, her family came to Turlock, California. She graduated from Hilmar High School in 1951. From a young age, Jessie's beautiful freckles and big blue eyes brought laughter and joy to all she encountered. She gave her heart to the Lord at a young age. Jessie always made everyone feel like family & loved her husband and children with everything she had.

It was her spunk and love for life that first attracted Joe Sousa to her. They met when her family rented one of Joe's father's houses. Soon after they were engaged. Joe asked her to runaway to Reno, where they married September 20, 1952. They were happily married for 65 years.

She and Joe were avid Square dancers. Jessie was an extremely popular Square dance caller throughout the State. Jessie was able to show off her lovely singing voice and she and Joe enjoyed the company of the many friends they made along the way. The couple enjoyed making many trips across country to visit friends and relatives in Jessie's home state of

Arkansas. She loved basketball and enjoyed attending her grandchildren's many sporting events.

Jessie was preceded in death by brothers, Dwayne Leach & Johnny Leach; sisters, Arvella Leach & Robbie Brown-Skinner; son, Christopher Sousa; daughter, Debbie Ruse; and grandson, Evan Sousa.

Left to remember her love and life are her husband, Joe Sousa; her sisters, Marilyn Martin, Jill Ryan and sister-in-law Marcia Reynolds; her children, Joe (Valerie) Sousa, Eddie Sousa and Bobby (Karol) Sousa; children-in-law Gary Ruse and Allison & Dave Sutton; 11 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren; as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins.

A quote found in Jessie's Bible that she definitely embodied is, "Love isn't put in our hearts to stay, love isn't love 'til you give it away."

Family, friends and others whose lives Jessie touched are invited to her service at Turlock Funeral Home in the Main Chapel on Thursday, November 30 at 10:00 a.m. Guests are invited to share a special memory or words of encouragement.

For information contact Jill Klajic-Ryan 209-743-8097.

# Cemetery Details

## Turlock Memorial Park

575 N. Soderquist Rd.  
Turlock, CA 95380  
(209) 632-9111  
<http://turlockmemorialpark.com>

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

NOV **30**. 10:00 AM (PT)

Turlock Funeral Home  
425 North Soderquist Road  
Turlock, CA 95381  
(209) 632-9111  
<https://turlockfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Jessie Faye Sousa*

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January 28, 2023 at 09:01 AM