

Joanne (Boyd) -Guibord



I was just thinking about how blessed I am to have three amazing and talented children and ten beautiful grandchildren (second to everyone else's of course.)

After our 1957 graduation when we were all ready to try out our wings, I flew to Michigan Bell Telephone Company in Royal Oak where I worked for a year ... a year filled with fun times which often included "cruising" Woodward Avenue. I was able to save money for college and eventually graduated from Eastern Michigan University in 1963 with a BS degrees in Special Education. Eastern Orthopedic School in Grand Rapids was my first teaching position. Three other teachers and myself rented a home and promptly opened charge accounts at the three large department stores downtown. Life was good!

A group of friends decided to spend Easter vacation in Puerto Rico where I met a handsome Spanish Pan American Olympian (dang, and I didn't take Spanish in high school). I was accepted at Ramey Air Force Base in Puerto Rico as a teacher. My handyh dandy bicycle and I pedaled around the base to the schools and enjoyed the beautiful scenery. Again, life was good, filled with many friends. We shared dinners in the BOQ, sing-a-longs, cookouts and also encountered many strange looking bugs ... ughhh ... It's funny how life comes full circle: my grandchildren are fascinated by insects. It's definitely not in the genes!

Marriage and three children: Andrea, David and Michael soon followed. I was fortunate to pretty much be a "stay-at-home" Mom so "dove" into PTO, Scouts and canning of garden vegetables. I still have canning jars if anyone is interested in them.

The children grew, I again worked in the area of Special Education and we sent many CARE packages to college. They all graduated. Yay!

In 1989 I entered prison and was "paroled" in 1999. Actually, I taught prisoners, initiated literacy programs and worked with Angel Tree, a program started by Chuck Colson. His Prison Fellowship is a very worthwhile program and has helped many change their lives for the better.

I have been single since 1988 and just enjoy life! I'm "retired" but still tend to work with children. If I had a dream, it probably would involve a RV, a tropical climate and an unlimited gas card!

We are so blessed to be able to share our memories with each other. My very best to you as we all enjoy our senior years.

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