



Joan Blondell Kendrick-Watkins

January 06, 1939 - April 27, 2025

Joan Blondell Kendrick-Watkins, 86, of East Hartford, passed away peacefully on Sunday, April 27, 2025, at her home. She was the wife of the late Fred Watkins Sr. Born in Hartford on January 6, 1939, she was the daughter of the late Jesse Dan and Mary (Butts) Kendrick. She was raised in Hartford and graduated from Weaver High School, Class of 1957. Joan worked in banking for many years at Northeast Savings Bank, Travelers Insurance Company, and Connecticut Bank and Trust. Before retiring, she worked for the American Indians for Development, Golden Hills Indian Development Corporation, and Foxwoods Resort Casino. She was particularly proud of her Native American roots. In her spare time, she enjoyed crafting Native American pottery and ceramic jewelry. Thanksgiving and Easter were her favorite family celebrations. She would spend several days preparing and cooking for the entire family and relatives. Joan was also a member of the Girl Scouts of America and for many years served as an official auxiliary volunteer for the Civil Air Patrol Organization, assisting with various missions such as search and rescue and aerospace education. She was a survivor of the Hartford-Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus tent fire in 1944. She is survived by six children: William Watkins of Jacksonville, Florida, Kimo Kendrick Sr. of Buena Park, California, Sil-Austin Kendrick of Suffield, Yvette Watkins of Hurlock, VA, London Kendrick Sr. of Webster, Texas, and Freddnette Watkins-Mendez and her husband, Ferdinand of Middletown; six grandchildren; a brother, Robert Kendrick, and his wife, Joann, of Alpharetta, Georgia; two sisters, Jessica Kendrick-Beverly of East Hartford, and Roberta Kendrick of Bloomfield, and a host of nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends. In addition to her parents and husband, she was predeceased by two sons, Leonard "Dougie" Watkins and Eric Watkins, and two brothers, Arthur Kendrick and Leonard Kendrick. Her family will receive friends on Friday, May 23, from 10 to 11 am, followed by a Service of Remembrance conducted by her family at 11 am, in the chapel of the Carmon Windsor Funeral Home, 807 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor. Burial will be at a later date in Spring Grove Cemetery, Hartford. For online condolences or to view the services live or after Friday, May 23 at 11 am, please visit www.carmonfuneralhomes.com