



Jo Newton Bird

October 30, 1930 - February 9, 2026

DUE TO WEATHER GRAVESIDE SERVICES HAVE BEEN MOVED TO PHILLIPS & LUCKEY FUNERAL HOME CHAPEL | 1041 W US HWY 79 ROCKDALE TEXAS 76567.

Jo Newton Bird, named at birth Charles Willadine Locklin, passed on Feb 2, 2026, in Evansville Indiana with caregivers and family near. She was born October 14, 1930 in Davila, TX. to Ruth Lucille (Hill) and Howard Newell Locklin. She spent her childhood in Milam County with her parents and 5 siblings. The 6 sisters and brother stayed very close through the years but against Jo's personal wishes, as the oldest, she outlived them all.

At a young age, Jo fell in love and married a man named "Juney" Akers with whom they had a beautiful daughter named Sandy. She moved to Houston in later years where she started her career with Shell Oil Co. Retired from there after 30+ plus years and then her and husband Jack Bird, made it back to her "home" area, Rockdale. She and friends spent years "throwing" Christmas Balls and fantastic events. She had friendships that spanned decades. In her 80s, we convinced her to move to Indiana to be with her last sister, Shirley and nieces.. She stayed in our care until the end.

She lived a full and prestigious life and as the Matriarch our family she will never be forgotten.

Cemetery Details

I.O.O.F. Cemetery

850 N. Main St.
Rockdale, TX 76567

Previous Events

Graveside Service

FEB **14**. 11:00 AM (CT)

I.O.O.F. Cemetery
850 N. Main St.
Rockdale, TX 76567

Tribute Wall

SC

“ My name is Suzanne Gilleland Clark. My Dad was TF Gilleland he was Jo's cousin & his Mom My Big MaMa was Jo's Aunt. Sorry to hear about Jo. Prayers sent to all of her family.
She always was such a Sweet Lady around me when I saw her.
In Christian Love!
Suzanne

Suzanne Clark - February 09 at 06:01 PM

CR

My gracious, beautiful lifelong friend and colleague has passed on after many years of being cared for and tended to by great caregivers and family members. I'm so happy that she is peacefully resting now and her spirit is flying with the clouds and angels. There is no other Queen of the Southern Divas like her, nor will there ever be. She was intelligent, loved by everyone, loved her Western Swing Music leaders and we went to many concerts to enjoy the music with lots of friends we had made. She was very special to me, a mentor, a sister, a work associate, an example I followed and learned about life from. I have missed her since she moved to Indiana, and will miss her forever. My sympathy to the family -

Cathy Sue Roper - February 10 at 08:52 PM

DC

Jo was so special to Donnie and I, we loved her dearly. We loved Jo so much, She was so kind and always made us welcome in her home. We are heartbroken but will see her again in heaven. Jo has wonderful nieces. and family that we are praying for .. We will always keep Jo in our hearts until we join her in heaven.

Donnie and Ann Colwell - February 14 at 10:55 AM