

Jonelle E. Miller-Chapman

AUSTIN- Her smile says it all about her personality and her life. Jonelle Miller-Chapman, 78, passed away peacefully at home on August 31, 2023, after a three-year battle with cancer. Friends and family will remember her as a “gentle soul” who always made you feel happy when you were around her.

Jonelle was born in Bay City, Texas, and lived in many cities around Texas growing up. Her father was a geologist, who inspired her love of rocks and archeology.

Jonelle knew as a teenager that she wanted to be a teacher. She graduated from Midland Lee High School in 1963 and went on to earn her Bachelor of Education from the University of Texas Austin in 1967. Jonelle loved Austin and most of all Longhorn football.

Jonelle was a devoted teacher both inside and outside of the classroom. As a young teacher, she intentionally took a position at the first integrated school in the La Marque area. She taught at Leander ISD for seventeen years, positively impacting many children, before she retired in 2002. Outside of the classroom, she instilled her enthusiasm for learning with her grandchildren and nephews, whether it be reading to them, or sharing her love of nature, Texas history, and archeology.

Jonelle was an avid avocational archeologist and active member of both the Travis County and Texas Archeological Societies (TAS). She was the editor of the Texas Archeological Society newsletter for twelve years and enjoyed volunteering at the Texas Archeology research lab during retirement. Her annual highlight was attending TAS Field School, not only to excavate a site but also to connect with her archeology friends.

Jonelle was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Lorna Fryou. She is survived by her husband, Jerry Chapman, brother Roger Fryou and his wife, Kim, her daughter Jamie Smith, and grandchildren, stepchildren, and nephews.

A Celebration of Life for Jonelle Miller-Chapman will be held on Saturday, October 28, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa Drive, Austin, Texas 78759. A reception will follow.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to:

The Texas Archeological Society Endowment Fund, <https://www.txarch.org/donate>. Put Jonelle in the comment field.

