

## Joan Gilbert Young Class of 2019



Joan graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1974 and was listed in Who's Who Among American High School Students. She was a Life Member of the California Scholastic Federation (CSF), Top Ten student, and member of the National Honor Society all four years. She was very active in the Girls' Athletic Association (GAA) all four years, serving as an officer three years and a GAA all-star every year. She was not only a scholar/athlete, she found time to serve as a class officer, JV and Varsity cheerleader, Pep Club, Student Council member and Special Education teacher assistant at Nelson Avenue School.

After marrying her high school sweetheart, Joan and her husband Craig, OHS 1972, moved to Alaska for two years. She held accounting and auditor positions with Copper Valley Construction and Electric, while Craig worked on the Alaska Pipeline. Joan was a staff accountant and tax preparer for Fowler & Oliver, CPAs in Oroville, while Craig finished at CSUC. They subsequently returned to Alaska to pursue job opportunities and start their family.

Throughout her sons' education in districts in Colorado and Illinois, pre-school to high school, Joan was actively involved in their schools. She regularly worked one-on-one with students as a reading, writing, and math mentor. She served as PTO President for five years and held many leadership and committee positions at the district level. She was a Gifted and Talented Education facilitator, Odyssey of the Mind coach, and instrumental in one of the schools receiving the Dept. of Education Blue-Ribbon School Award. Joan was also a Cub Scout Den Mother and Scout Day Camp leader while living in Denver, Colorado.

Since 2010, Joan has been a key member of Valiant Women of Mission Hospital, and facilitated the establishment of the Nursing Scholarship Endowment at Mission Hospital. The endowment provides scholarships for continuing education and advanced degrees for hospital nurses, resulting in an extraordinarily positive impact on the level of quality care received by the community. Joan also served on the board for many years.

From 1995 to the present, in addition to her community and philanthropy work, Joan has managed all six entities of the Young Family Holding Companies with commercial and investment assets in multiples states.

Longtime friend, Claudia Harlan, writes in her letter of support, "Joan's belief is that you start with a vision, and then you dig in and get to work. Using a "hands-on" approach has proven to be very successful, and her hard work and commitment to family and community is an inspiration. Her philosophy is to strive to do your best and make it happen."