



Julie Singley Pinkston

August 22, 1942 - March 6, 2025

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Julie Singley Pinkston. Julie passed away on March 6, 2025. Born on August 22, 1942, in Columbia, Mississippi, Julie grew up on a dairy farm operated by her late parents, Vasco Monette Singley and Edna Coward Singley. A graduate of Columbia High School, Julie was the recipient of the Daughters of the American Revolution award for scholarship and the coveted Citizenship Award at graduation. In addition to many honors, Julie was the Captain of the Cheerleading Squad, Homecoming Queen, and a National Honor Society honoree. Additionally, she left her mark with her involvement in various other student government positions.

Following high school graduation, Julie graduated from Mississippi State College for Women, fondly known as “The W” in Columbus, Mississippi. She was inducted into the Gauntlet Social Club and The Young Republicans Club and was actively involved in the school yearbook, THE MEH LADY. Following her mother's desire, she pursued a degree in education and after graduation, became a student teacher at Meridian Junior College.

Julie's interview in 1964 with the Escambia County School System in Pensacola, Florida, led to a teaching position at Pensacola High School. She and her family visited Pensacola and Santa Rosa Island for years. Julie was happy to have a new home in Pensacola and was quite pleased to meet Ott

Pinkston, a naval cadet going through flight training at the Pensacola Navy Station. They were married in 1965, and Ott continued service in the United States Navy as a flight radar officer and served on the USS Forrestal.

The couple welcomed the birth of their daughter, Alexandria (Alex) Leigh in 1966. After its return from Vietnam, the Forrestal was deployed on a Mediterranean Cruise. Leaving their dog, Caesar, with her parents in Mississippi, Julie and two-year old Alex lived in Europe and traveled extensively throughout the continent. When Ott was deployed, Julie and Alex often relied on ferries to reach distant islands to welcome Ott when he arrived in different ports. These travels were a wonderful experience that culminated in Alex being the beloved doll baby of the VF-74 Be-Devilers Squadron.

After the Navy, the Pinkstons returned to Salisbury, and Ott worked for Metropolitan Life and later began a lifetime career as a manufacturer's representative for furniture companies. Julie taught at North Rowan High where she always said life there was charming for her, as she endeared many students and they, in turn, endeared her. She was not only a beloved teacher but a mentor to hundreds of the students that she taught. Julie was named Jaycee Young Educator of the Year, Time Warner Star Teacher, and Teacher of the Year at North. The 1999 "Northern Lights" yearbook was dedicated to her. Even after her retirement, she was often approached by students who thanked her for knowledge, kindness, and inspiration. While teaching full-time, Julie commuted to UNC-Greensboro where she earned a Master of Science Degree in Business Education and was named to the Delta Pi Epsilon Honorary Fraternity, Zeta Chapter.

In addition to their many friends in Salisbury, Julie worked hard to maintain treasured friendships from many places, including Mississippi, Garden City, South Carolina, and the Navy. Julie was an active member of St. John's Lutheran Church where she served as a lector and a teacher, and coordinated

and participated in mentoring students at Knox Middle School. She was a board member for the Salisbury-Rowan Heart Ball. She was also an active participant and board member of Faithful Friends Animal Shelter (FFAS) where she was instrumental in raising significant funds for the organization. The 2021 FFAS Calendar included a tribute to her long-lasting love for animals.

She is survived by her husband, Ott Pinkston, her cat, Oscar, her beloved daughter, Alex Kenny and her husband, Gary Kenny, her granddaughter, Julie Savannah Kenny, and grandfurkids, Lola, Lucy, and Tux. Her brother, Simon Jodie Singley, lives in the family home in Mississippi. Julie's much adored younger sister, Mary Vivian (Mimi) Sandt, who was 13 months younger than she, died much too early and is survived by her daughter and son, Julie's niece, and nephew, Portia and Chip Sandt. Many beloved pets also preceded her in death, including Caesar, Plato, Sally, Rascal, Otto, Cinnamon, Romeo, Tarheel, Tiger, Princess, and several grandfurkids.

Julie's family would like to extend its deepest gratitude to all who provided wonderful care to her during her journey with cancer, including Novant Cancer Institute, Novant Health Rowan Medical Center, and the Glenn A. Kiser Hospice House.

Even in her final days, Julie's strength, love, humor and grace shone brightly. She did not allow her battle with cancer to stifle her humor, love, optimism, and benevolence to others.

A celebration of her life will be held on Wednesday (Mar. 12) at 11 AM at St. John's Lutheran Church. There will be a private burial for the family at the U.S. National Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. John's Lutheran Church, 200

West Innes Street, Salisbury, North Carolina 28144 and to Faithful Friends
Animal Sanctuary, 220 Grace Church Road, Salisbury, North Carolina 28147.
Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Pinkston family. Online condolences
may be made at www.summersettfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Salisbury National Cemetery

501 Statesville Blvd.
Salisbury, NC 28144

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John's Lutheran Church
200 W. Innes St.
Salisbury, NC 28144

Tribute Wall

JB

“ John Bramlett planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Julie Singley Pinkston.

John Bramlett - March 19, 2025 at 04:40 PM

JB

“ John Bramlett purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Julie Singley Pinkston.



John Bramlett - March 19, 2025 at 04:40 PM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Julie Singley Pinkston.



March 10, 2025 at 03:32 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Julie Singley Pinkston.

March 10, 2025 at 10:00 AM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Julie Singley Pinkston.*



March 10, 2025 at 10:00 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Julie Singley Pinkston.*



March 09, 2025 at 02:50 PM



“ *Love, Kathy Boyd and Lollie Streiff purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Julie Singley Pinkston.*



Love, Kathy Boyd and Lollie Streiff - March 09, 2025 at 10:10 AM



“ *Love, Kathy Boyd and Lollie Streiff planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Julie Singley Pinkston.*

Love, Kathy Boyd and Lollie Streiff - March 09, 2025 at 10:10 AM

KH

“ *What a wonderful lady, former teacher and most importantly a friend. Her smile and contagious laugh will always be remembered along with her optimistic attitude. Kyle J. Huffman*

Kyle J. Huffman - March 08, 2025 at 02:25 PM

FP

“ *I first met Julie in Pensacola where she was teaching school. Ott was at sea, and I was on a temporary assignment with the Navy. Julie was engaged to my cousin Ott. She and I went out to dinner. I knew right away that we would be friends. For the last 60 years Ott and Julie have shown my wife, Carolyn, and I warmth and hospitality. Her smile and her laughter were infectious. Her love and friendship were genuine. She will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her. May God give you rest, Julie, with the saints in light. Your cousin, Fred*

Fred Pinkston - March 08, 2025 at 11:37 AM

MR

Julie was always so friendly to us and to everyone!! Sending deepest sympathy, love, and prayers to Ott, Alex, and family! Love, Marcia and Randy Reamer

Marcia Reamer - March 10, 2025 at 05:15 PM

NK

“ *Norman K. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Julie Singley Pinkston.*

Norman K. - March 08, 2025 at 09:07 AM

CC

“ *Cliff and Ursula Compton purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Julie Singley Pinkston.*



Cliff and Ursula Compton - March 08, 2025 at 07:40 AM

CC

“ *Cliff and Ursula Compton planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Julie Singley Pinkston.*

Cliff and Ursula Compton - March 08, 2025 at 07:40 AM