



Judy Lynn McDonald

JUN 29, 1947 - MAR 7, 2025



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Judy Lynn McDonald

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Judy Lynn McDonald passed away peacefully on Friday, March 7, 2025, after a courageous battle with ALS. To no one's surprise, she was beautiful, brave, strong and poised through it all.

Judy was born in Kansas City, Kansas on June 29, 1947, to a teenage mother who was not prepared to have a baby. Luckily, there was a lovely couple who had waited years for a child of their own and were overjoyed to call Judy theirs. They brought baby Judy back to a tiny house in Liberal, Kansas where she grew up the proud daughter of a football coach - climbing trees, sewing dresses and raising kittens to her heart's content.

Judy went on to college at Fort Hays State, Kansas; then found her way to Arkansas where she began a career in healthcare at Park Hill Women's Clinic in Fayetteville. She moved up from a receptionist job to the office manager and into a role that she cherished - she was in charge of the babies being adopted. She had the privilege of carrying those babies in her arms to their new parents. As an adopted child herself, it was incredibly rewarding.

A few years later, she began working in government. After working closely with Senator David Pryor and his campaign, she was appointed as the Legislative Liaison for the Arkansas State Health Department. She was a very active campaigner for Governor Clinton, Senator David Pryor and the Democratic Party and carried this political passion throughout her life. It was fitting that it was at an ice cream social fundraiser in Fayetteville, that she met Dr James Edward McDonald II. And she was smitten.

The marriage and merger of their two families was joy-filled and adventurous. Judy immediately dove into the daily chaos of raising 4 children of roughly the same ages while supporting a husband starting a new practice. Along with these family and business adventures, Judy and Jay also shared a love for travel and spent time exploring and photographing different cultures and experiences all over the globe. Judy loved it. And on every trip she would always seek out the animals and come home with her favorite photos - selfies with camels, horses, dogs and cats.



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Raising a family was being done while she and Jay were also building the successful McDonald Eye Clinic (traveling came later). At The McDonald Eye Clinic, Judy was an innovative business leader with a creative mind. As the head administrator she helped build a thriving practice which created close relationships with the worldwide ophthalmology community.

Judy was a true public servant. Over her lifetime she volunteered and served her city and her state in many ways. Judy served ten years on the Fayetteville School Board as a Member and then President. She aided in the development of Peace at Home – a shelter and support for women and encouraged all her friends to be involved. Her love for the Razorbacks in all sports was only equaled by her husband. Together they attended, hollered and cried for the Hogs year after year. Judy was on the Fulbright College Advisory board where she gave her time, her home and her money to making the University of Arkansas a welcoming place for students from throughout the world. She loved her garden and was a proud member of her garden club as well as a Master Gardener. Her last great public gift to Fayetteville was her time and generosity to the Botanical Gardens of NWA where she finished her term on the board as a repeat President. Giving back is what Judy did.

Judy's life of service and work is impressive, but what made her eyes sparkle were her family and her many dogs. She delighted in talking about her four children, sharing their accomplishments and lives through many pictures and stories with anyone who would listen. And then came all the grandkids! Her home, social posts and cell phone were filled every day with pictures of every child and grandchild. She was quiet about her own accomplishments but never about those of her family.

Jay was her true love and partner. This love was only occasionally rivaled by whatever mutt happened to be the newest addition to their dog family. Judy loved to be surrounded by her dogs; and you can bet that all of her pets throughout the years, with Freckles leading the way, bounded up to her with tails wagging as they welcomed her to her new home.

Judy is preceded in death by her parents, Hoxie and Ruthe Freeman. She is survived by her husband Dr. Jay McDonald, daughters Bucy Neech (Jeremy) of Bath, England, Ashley Hopkins (Braden) of Lander, WY, Julia McDonald of London, England, son Andrew Stout (Neely) of Tampa, FL and eight grandchildren, Clara Hopkins, Keller Hopkins, Tripp Hopkins, Sydney Stout, Bennett Stout, Pierce Stout, Storm Neech, Jago Neech. Judy is also survived by her birth mother Lois Marion Johnson Danes and two half-sisters Stefani Danes (Doug Cooper) and Nancy



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Marshall (David Leadman). Judy was lovingly cared for by Jay and her wonderful team of caregivers: Heidi Rice, Lauren Caron, Storm Bureau and Avary Jones.

Judy was a beautiful force of life and is already dearly missed. But just as she did with everything she undertook, she has left this place and all of us better than before she found us.

Please join her family and friends as we honor her life.

Visitation will be Tuesday, March 18th, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Moore's Chapel in Fayetteville. Memorial Celebration will be Wednesday, March 19th, at 2:00 PM at Central United Methodist Church.

For those who wish to make a memorial donation in Judy's honor:

- Botanical Garden of the Ozarks: <https://bgozarks.org/>
- Peace at Home Women's Shelter: <https://peaceathomeshelter.org/>

Click this link to view additional details about Judy's Services, including any available live streams:

<https://my.gather.app/remember/judy-mcdonald-2025>



Events


Judy Lynn McDonald

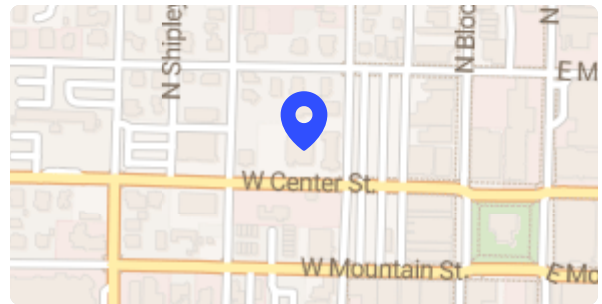
JUN 29, 1947 - MAR 7, 2025

Visitation

 **Tuesday**, March 18, 2025

 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM CT


 **Moore's Chapel Funeral Home**
206 West Center St., Fayetteville AR 72701

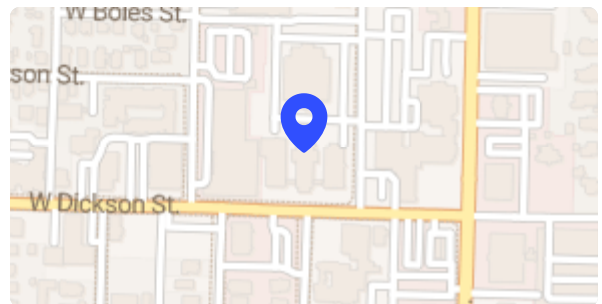


Memorial Celebration

 **Wednesday**, March 19, 2025

 2:00 PM CT

 **Central United Methodist Church**
6 W Dickson Street , Fayetteville AR 72701





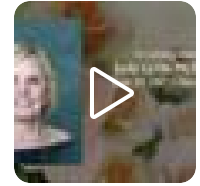
Tribute Wall

Judy Lynn McDonald

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Moores Chapel shared a **Video**.



March 18 at 7:41 AM



Bob Harriell posted:

There were few bright spots for me in 1982. But, Judy and Jay came to my rescue, both individually and as a couple. I am forever grateful for the help they gave to me during that trying year. Their understanding and encouragement allowed me to survive the days when I was overwhelmed. They made me know the bad time would pass. And, it did pass. Judy was truly a delight. She radiated confidence with such a positive demeanor that she simply would not let negativity affect her or those around her. She was truly a beautiful person and will be greatly missed by all who had the good fortune of knowing her. Bob Harriell

March 25 at 4:44 PM



Millie Nelms posted:

Our condolences to Jay and all the family. Don says he was fortunate to work with Judy on a school project and she was capable and unassuming. She was a lovely person. We were fortunate to know her. Don and Millie Nelms

March 18 at 2:11 PM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the McDonald family.



March 18 at 12:59 PM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Judy.



March 18 at 12:59 PM



Tribute Wall

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KT

Kevin Toller posted:

Jay and Judy were so kind when I worked for Jay and they helped me so much early in my career. Lisa and I are so thankful for that and thankful to have gotten to know both Jay and Judy. We felt a gift to the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks was a perfect way to express our condolences. Praying with lots of love and support for the McDonald family. Kevin and Lisa Toller.

March 18 at 12:53 PM

ND

Nancy And David sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the McDonald family.



March 18 at 8:31 AM

ND

Nancy And David planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Judy.



March 18 at 8:31 AM

MF

Mong Family sent a Beautiful in Blue to the McDonald family.



March 17 at 11:17 AM

YF

Your Kar Family sent a Lavender Reflections Spray to the McDonald family.



March 17 at 9:02 AM

YF

Your Kar Family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Judy.



March 17 at 9:02 AM



Tribute Wall

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Alvin, Kathi Neff & Friends Atneff Dentistry sent an Arrive in Style to the McDonald family.



March 16 at 6:32 AM



Martha And Lawrence (Laurie) Thomas sent a Gracious Lavender Basket to the McDonald family.



March 15 at 7:34 PM



Carroll Jean Anderson posted:

A contribution to the Botanical Garden seemed like a fitting tribute to Judy from Andersons; we are sending love from California .

March 15 at 5:53 PM



June Coonts posted:

Judy was a beautiful lady inside & out. I know you all will miss her greatly. I didn't know all the family but I knew Jay & his passion for her was incredibly special. God Bless you all! 🙏❤️❤️.
June @ Jasper, Arkansas

March 15 at 7:34 AM



Judi Selle posted:

Judy and Jay were the co-chairs of the Peace at Home Family Shelter's fundraising drive to build a state-of-the-art safe shelter for women and children. They both did a remarkable job and the necessary millions were obtained. I was so happy to get to know both of them in the process and came to so love and admire Judy. My favorite part of any week is when I got to meet with her in her incredible garden with her bestie doggies. Bucy, Jay and Judy's daughter followed up with creating a film highlighting the challenges and bravery of survivors of domestic abuse. I loved working with Bucy on this project. So many will miss Ms Judy, but her accomplishments continue to benefit NW Ark and the world. ❤️

March 14 at 2:04 PM



Tribute Wall

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Terryl And Shannon Ortego sent an Arrive in Style to the McDonald family.

March 14 at 8:47 AM



Terryl And Shannon Ortego planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Judy.

March 14 at 8:47 AM



Joleen Rock posted:

Judy and I grew up together. We were besties! I loved her.

March 14 at 7:00 AM



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the McDonald family.

March 14 at 5:18 AM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Judy.

March 14 at 5:18 AM



Anonymous sent an Arrive in Style to the McDonald family.

March 14 at 5:14 AM





Tribute Wall

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Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Judy.

March 14 at 5:14 AM



Anonymous sent a Basket of Memories to the McDonald family.

March 13 at 10:23 AM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Judy.

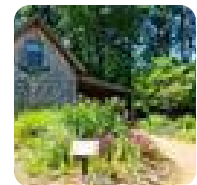
March 13 at 10:23 AM



Joanna Grześkowiak shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Made a donation in Judy Lynn McDonald's honor to the Butterfly House at the Botanical Gardens of the Ozarks. My prayers are with you and your family Andrew.

March 13 at 9:14 AM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the McDonald family.

March 13 at 6:01 AM



Katie And Dave Zapata sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the McDonald family.

March 13 at 5:28 AM





Media

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Moores Chapel shared a **Video**.

March 18 at 7:41 AM





Media

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Joanna Grześkowiak shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

March 13 at 9:14 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Judy by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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