



## Lenita Ruth Johnson Merryman

December 22, 1946 - April 5, 2012

Lenita Ruth Merryman, age 65, of Morrilton, went to be with the Lord, Thursday, April 5, 2012. She was born to Wilbur Ruel "Strait" and Patti Ruth Johnson of Bigelow, Arkansas. Lenita was preceded in death by her father , Strait Johnson and former husband, Jerry Merryman, of Clinton, Arkansas. Survivors include her mother, Patti Ruth Pearson Johnson of Morrilton; sons, Jerry Wayne Merryman of Louisville, KY; Sean Merryman and Michael Merryman of Morrilton; daughters, Shelli (Randy) Crowell of Morrilton; Juli (Lou) Terry of Little Rock, and Janet Adelman of Louisville, KY; a brother, Travis Johnson of Nashville, TN; fifteen grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren. Nita, as her close friends and family knew her was a retired registered nurse and of the Baptist faith.

At a young age, Nita met Jerry Merryman and the two fell deeply in love. They were soon married and together, they raised six children. Along with the considerable responsibilities of a young family, Nita found the strength and dedication to complete her GED and pursue her dream of becoming a licensed practical nurse. She earned her LPN degree in 1978 from Petit Jean Vocational School and put her degree to good use serving the patients of Clinton Hospital. Yearning more knowledge, somehow, Nita managed to find the time and energy to balance work, family, and still more schooling to complete her Registered Nurse degree from the Baptist School of Medicine. She happily consumed nursing and gave most of herself to patients and co-workers for many years.

As sometimes happens with even the most devoted of couples, Nita and Jerry drifted apart over time. Having independence, Nita found happiness being single, but endeared her bond with Elmer "Junior" Casley and, near the end, the support of her dear friend and companion Cliff Byrd.

Nita was a loving devoted friend to all and never came across a stranger that she did not completely give her whole heart to. She would never turn away someone in need and was a mentor and second Mom to many. She left an indelible mark on the people whose lives she touched. She delighted at the sight of her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Nita was a devoted Mother, Daughter, Sister, Wife and Grandmother, and friend...Her love and devotion knew no bounds. Her legacy will live through her children, family, and loved ones.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. Monday, April 9, at Harris Chapel with Rev. Fred Oaks officiating. Burial will be at Culpepper Cemetery by Harris Funeral Home of Morrilton. The family will receive friends one hour before the service. Pallbearers are Lou Terry, Randy Crowell, Cody Crowell, Ryan Drake, Kenneth Jennings, and Mike Mayo. Honorary Pallbearers are Bobby Gilbert, Cliff Byrd, Danny Casley, Tim Cutright, Jason Clark, and Ed Johnson.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Lenita Ruth Johnson Merryman*

January 30, 2023 at 02:08 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of Nita's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

**Eva Johnson Eaton** - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM



“ *Those we love remain with us  
For love itself lives on,*

*And cherished memories never fade  
Because a loved one's gone.*

*Those we love can never be  
More than a thought apart,*

*For as long as there is memory,  
They'll live on in the heart.*

**Nancy Merryman** - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM



“ *You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Lenita was a special lady and I will miss her very much. We love all of you!*

*Paula, Billy, Taylor, and Brett McElroy*

**Paula McElroy** - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

JG

“ I was ten-years-old when Nita was born. They brought her home from the hospital on Christmas Day. I loved her at first sight with a love that has lasted sixty-five years and will remain in my heart as long as I live.

When my daughter, Patti McCabe Heffington, received word of Nita's death, she wrote the following words:

"I'm sorry Nita suffered so much these past few weeks. She was unique in so many ways. She would do anything for anybody. She was never selfish. She was a part of my young life that provided many warm memories. She'd polish her toenails and then polish mine the same color even though my little feet were dirty. She'd help me get to the first limb of the magnolia tree. When I was ten, she took Tony and me to a wrestling match. Now, that was great fun! She got some new thong sandals that were so cute. She took them off her feet and put them on mine and insisted I keep them, telling me, 'They look better on you, Patti K.!' That was Nita. Always. She would do anything for anybody and was never selfish. I was just thinking about Nita this week. When we were little Nita was in charge of hiding Easter eggs. She carried them out of the house in a giant pickle jar. It looked like there must have been a hundred brightly dyed eggs in that jar. I'm sure there wasn't, but when you're three or four years old, it looked like a lot. She hid them all over the old home place and then came back inside to get Tony, Travis and me, and off we'd go. Tony and Travis were quick. I was always a couple of steps behind. Nita realized I couldn't keep up and she always made sure I could find some eggs. Once we found all the eggs, Nita would collect them and put them back in that giant pickle jar and the whole process would start all over again! Rest in Peace, Nita!"

Yes, dear precious Nita, rest in peace ....

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Jonelle Pearson Gerner - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

LE

“ Our love and prayers are with your family! Lenita was a wonderful person and will be loved and missed dearly!!! Love & Huge Hugs,Lara & Matt Van Est

Lara Faulkner Van Est - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

NL

“ Wonderful lady, friend, you will be missed. Thinking about the family, God Bless you all.

Nancy Long - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

AT

“ Dear Children,Shelli, Juli, Shawn  
SO sorry about your Mother. I Did not know her but do know that she was so loved by her children and that she left behind the sweetest, kindest son and daughters there ever was. Love you all,and I weep because of your sadness.

Alice Ledbetter Ticer - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

LN

“ Shelly so sorry for the loss of your mom. She was so young. Randy and I are thinking of you during this difficult time. Keep the food memories close. Love you.

Lori and Randy Nichols - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

SW

“ Shelli...so very sorry for your loss!!! My condolences sent out to you and your family.. May God comfort each of you during this difficult time.

Sonya Washington - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

CF

“ Praying for u and your family. Keep the faith and everything will be alright. Love yall.

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**christy swinton and family** - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

TL

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. Your mom was a wonderful woman and a true inspiration to all of the nursing generation that has followed her. I loved her like my own mother. We had a lot of really great times together. You and your family are in my thoughts and heart. All my love, Tony

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**Tony Lawrence** - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

JS

“ I went back home in 2009 and got to see Nita. She was so kind and welcomed me and Olivia to her home. That was a very special visit and I found out that the Johnson's and the Stane's are related somehow way back. There was a little dog that she was taking care of and it was the cutest thing but it chewed up her oxygen hose... she was so calm about it and we giggled at that little dog. the repair man came and fixed her back up. She never did get mad at that little dog. Her eyes and her smile were the same as the picture of her when she was younger. I remembered seeing that picture there by her chair and thinking how beautiful she was in her youth and that you could still see the sparkle in her eyes and smile when she laughed at that little dog. I am grateful to have had that brief visit with her and my heart and thoughts are with you all in this really difficult time. Olivia will never forget how nice your family was to us and we pray peace for you all. I'm so sorry especially to Ms. Patti. God bless you and give you peace in your heart.

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**J. RaChelle Stane** - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

TH

“ Shelly, we are so sorry for your loss. we know what its like to lose a parent. we are praying for your family. the hippensteels

terri hippensteel - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

BG

“ Will miss my friend and our visits reminiscing about "old times"..Lenita was like my family, She holds an indelible place in my heart wnd will always be cherished...I will surely misse her..I Pray for Peace and Comfort for you all as I KNOW you miss her, but kknow you can ALWAYS cherish teh gift that GOD gave us the memory hold her in your hearts forever.

Bobby Gilbert - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

SH

“ You were such a huge part of my life growing up and I will dearly miss you.

Scott G. Handford - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

LJ

“ My prayers are with you all. Juli and Shelli, I love you both and pray that you will find peace. Your Mother is now with your Dad and all is well.

Lynda Justice-Lewis - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

MD

“ Shelli  
Christy and I are very saddened by the loss of your Mom and will be thinking of you this week. May God grant you peace and understanding. Mark

Mark Day - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

LU

“ Shawn and Shelli,  
Richard and I are so sorry for the loss of your Mom. Your entire family is in our prayers.

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**Lisa Upton** - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

CA

“ So sorry to learn of Nita Ruths death. My condolences go out to Patti and the rest of Nita's family. She and I were classmates at Bigelow and she was always a lot of fun to be around.

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**Carroll Ed Atkinson** - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

IJ

“ JIM AND I ARE SO SORRY FOR THE LOSS OF YOUR MOM.TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER ALWAYS.

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**IONE JOHNSON** - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

FL

“ Jerry Wayne, Shelli, Shawn, Juli and Mick, we want you to know our thoughts and prayers are with you during your loss.  
Your family has been a part of our family for many many years... We love you and do want to continue to be a part of your lives.  
Our love, Fred, Linda, Paul, Mark, & Matt

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**Fred & Linda** - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

BD

“ Patti Ruth, Travis and family: you are in my thoughts and prayers. God's blessings on you at this time. Cherish the memories.

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**Bonnie Dixson-Holloway** - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

JJ

“ I'm sorry to hear of your loss. I hate it that I couldn't be there for the funeral and see you guys. I know that words don't help much at a time like this; but I offer my deepest sympathy.

James Jigger Johnson - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

SW

“ So sorry for your loss! Love you all very much! God bless.

Sharon Waddell - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

KL

“ all my love and prayers for her family

Karen Byrd Laramie - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

EW

“ My thoughts and prayers are with all the family. I am so sorry for your loss. May God comfort each of you and may you know the peace that only he can provide.

Emma Lipsmeyer White - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

BD

“ To Shelli and family, I am so sorry for the loss of your dear mother. Please know you are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Brenda Short Duvall - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

SJ

“ I will always remember how Nita worked Jerry when she wanted something new. Mike was helping make the garage into a family room at their house on the highway going to Pleasant Valley and I was with him, visiting with Nita. We noticed she had pulled the freezer away from the wall and asked her what she was doing. She said she was taking the wire off the back, we looked at each other, then asked her why. She said that was the only way she could get a new one and a few days later she had a brand new freezer! She was so much fun to be with, I will miss her but I will get to visit with her, Mike, and many friends and loved ones for an eternity, some day! To God be the Glory!

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**Sheryl Johnson** - April 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM