



Julia Ann Thomas

December 9, 1942 - February 27, 2026

Julia Ann Thomas, affectionately known as "Judy," was born on December 9, 1942, in Bridgeton, New Jersey, to the late Gertrude Forman Jenkins and Raymond Ralph Smith. She departed this life peacefully on February 27, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family.

Judy was educated in the Wilmington Public School system and graduated from Wilmington High School in 1960. It was here where she discovered a passion for mathematics and a spark that ignited a distinguished 50-year career in accounting, finance, and bookkeeping.

A lifelong learner, Judy honed her expertise through coursework at Delaware Technical and Community College and Goldey-Beacom College. Her professional journey was defined by dedicated public service, including roles as an Accounting Clerk at Northeast Federal Credit Union and a Staff Accountant at the Wilmington Housing Authority. She later spent over 13 years with the State Department of Finance in the Tax Division, eventually retiring in 2013.

Beyond her formal career, Judy was a generosity expert. She spent decades preparing tax returns for family and friends, often providing her services free of charge to those in need to ensure no one was left behind. Judy's vibrant and pleasant personality was reflected in her many hobbies. She was an avid

genealogist who spent hours tracing her family history through Ancestry. She found joy in the simple pleasures of life: eating crabs with loved ones, playing pinochle, listening to the soulful sounds of Motown, being inspired by gospel music and watching Westerns, Law & Order and movies on the 'Lifetime' channel. She loved traveling back to New Jersey to visit her immediate and extended family, assembling intricate puzzles, painting by numbers and attending Indian pow-wows. She also was an avid cat lover and enjoyed spending time with her 'babies.'

Above all, Judy was the heartbeat of her family. She lived for the moments spent with her children and grandchildren, meticulously planning barbecues and holiday gatherings that created lasting memories for generations. Judy accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior and lived a life rooted in his teachings. She was a constant source of encouragement, frequently sharing biblical articles and books from her personal collection to uplift those around her.

She is survived by her sister Mary Hynson of Jersey City, NJ., daughter Adonica Johnson (John) and son James "Ray" Rhodes (Tammy); stepdaughters Erica Coles and Yvette Dessassure; 11 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandson; a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and many cherished close friends.

Cemetery Details

Silverbrook Cemetery

3300 Lancaster Pike
Wilmington, DE 19805

Previous Events

Viewing

MAR 16. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Gore Funeral Home
1910 Lancaster Ave
Wilmington, DE 19805
(302) 274-2960

Celebration of Life

MAR 16. 11:00 AM (ET)

Gore Funeral Home
1910 Lancaster Ave
Wilmington, DE 19805
(302) 274-2960

Burial

MAR 16 (ET)

Silverbrook Cemetery
3300 Lancaster Pike
Wilmington, DE 19805

Tribute Wall

VD

“ *My condolences to the Rhodes Family.*



Valerie E. Davis - March 19 at 10:12 AM

RS

“ *To My family*

Dear Donnie and Ray. I was shocked and saddened to hear just yesterday of the passing of your mom Judy. I loved her and have so many fond memories of her. I remember first meeting your mom in the sixties. Your Dad took me to her house and introduced her as his girlfriend. They took me to the movies. She had an electric typewriter back then and I would go over to her house almost every day and she would let me type. Of course, I wasn't as good as she was. We reunited a friendship years later at the State of Delaware. I loved your mom and she will always hold a special place in my heart. May the love of GOD, family and friends bring you peace and comfort. We love you all and will be here for you.

Love and Peace,

Ruthie, John and Family

Ruthanne Surratte - March 18 at 10:41 AM

BM

“ My state bldg we like glue many yrs. I lost my sister same time rest on my friend live Brenda Mcmanus PEACE



Brenda Mcmanus - March 17 at 09:19 AM

KG

“ My love and condolences to the family. So sorry for your loss. May Mrs Thomas rest in eternal peace 🕊
Sincerely, Karen M Gower

Karen Gower - March 15 at 12:56 PM

TF

“ The Barnhill family purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Julia Ann Thomas.



The Barnhill family - March 13 at 11:32 AM

DP

“ Distribution Services, SPO, U of Penn purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Julia Ann Thomas.



Distribution Services, SPO, U of Penn - March 13 at 10:51 AM

CT

“ Rest my friend, I'm going miss ur smart mouth and sitting outside and talking. Love Cindy

Cynthia Taylor - March 10 at 09:20 AM



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

March 09 at 03:49 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Julia Ann Thomas.



March 09 at 03:49 PM



“ Heavenly and Harmony was purchased for the family of Julia Ann Thomas.



March 09 at 11:17 AM

HF

“ *Deepest condolences to Ray and Donna we love you both so much hold on to each other love the Maryland ,Delaware,Texas,and Virginia family*



helen fisher - March 06 at 03:52 PM

GH

“ *Our staff will continue to keep your family in our prayers. We thank you for allowing us to serve your family*



Gore Funeral Home

Gore Funeral Home - March 05 at 06:40 PM

JR

“ *My darling mother. You will be forever missed here on earth, but I will see you again in Glory. You gave everything you had and was the perfect example for me and Donna to carry on your legacy. I will continue to be the man you raised me to be and exemplify all that you stood for without compromise. Rest well and know that my love for you is forever and eternal. I love you incessantly.*

Your son,

Ray

James Ray Rhodes - March 05 at 04:36 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Julia Ann Thomas.*



March 05 at 01:03 PM