



Julia Hughes Jones

September 9, 1939 - September 14, 2022

Julia Hughes Jones, age 83, passed away on September 14, 2022, in St. Augustine, Florida. She was born Julia Mae Rumph on September 9, 1939, to the late James Harvey and Alice Olivia Chandler Rumph in Camden, Arkansas. The oldest of five children, Julia had three sisters and one brother.

A 1957 graduate of Camden High School, Julia later attended Texas Woman's University, the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, studying business administration and political science. In 1981, she completed Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government.

Julia married Charles Hughes in 1960 and they had three children by 1966. As the mom of a growing young family in Little Rock, she was busy with swimming, football and basketball carpools among other activities as she was also an elementary school teacher, active in the Junior League, and eventually worked as a special investigator in the Pulaski County Prosecuting Attorney's office. Julia and Charles divorced in 1978. She later married James H. Jones, Jr., the state editor of the Arkansas Gazette in 1979.

Julia blazed a trail for women in politics when she became the first woman to be elected to public office in Pulaski County as Circuit Clerk in 1976. Later in 1980, as Arkansas Auditor of State, she became the first woman elected to

statewide office without having been previously appointed.

Through her experience serving as State Auditor (1981-1995), Julia developed a unique and unconventional approach to politics that shaped her into a woman of uncommon vision in public affairs. In 1993, the Arkansas Association of Government Accountants named her as Financial Manager of the year. As a writer and professional public speaker on motivational leadership and politics, her speeches were published by several national publications. Julia's speech "Vote Theft 2000: Selecting Our Leaders Fairly and Honestly" was published in "Vital Speeches of the Day" (VOL. LXVII, No. 8) alongside speeches by three U.S. Presidents on February 1, 2001, as well as speeches by other corporate and political leaders. Her book, "The Secret History of Weeds: What Women Need to Know About Their History", was published in 2009.

Upon retirement in 1995, Julia moved to St. Augustine, Florida where she enjoyed her private life, made many friends, and continued writing and public speaking. She and her beloved Bichon's walked the beach every morning to watch the sunrise and to see all their beach neighbors and doggie friends.

Julia is survived by her children, David Hughes of St. Augustine, FL; Betsy Hughes Landman and her husband Mark Landman of Pittsburgh, PA; Lori Hughes Barnes and her husband Joe Barnes of Saint Johns, FL; stepdaughter Julia Jones Taylor and her husband Mallory Taylor of Little Rock; six grandsons, Dalton Landman of Chicago; Tyler Landman and his wife Anna Duckstein Landman of Pittsburgh, PA; Peyton Landman of Pittsburgh, PA; Josiah Barnes, David Barnes, and Harvey Barnes all of Saint Johns, FL; step granddaughter, Mary Ruth Taylor of Little Rock; sister Dottie Rumph Lindsey and her husband Carl Lindsey of Searcy, AR; sister-in-law Linda Rumph of Raleigh, NC; and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, relatives and friends.

Julia was preceded in death by her parents, husband James H. Jones, Jr., sister-cousin Elise Ann Smith Daniel, sister Alice Rumph Smith, brother James G. Rumph, and her three beloved Bichon's DeDe, Divi and Angel. In lieu of flowers, the family asks you to consider donating to the "James Jones Memorial Scholarship Fund" for journalism students at the University of Arkansas Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences, 525 Old Main, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

Tribute Wall

RW

“*Julia was a life long friend of my mother, Betty Becker Walt, another native of Camden, AR. They raised their families in Little Rock and remained in touch their entire lives. We heard many stories of Julia Mae/James Harvey/Mrs. Alice growing up in our house, all of them favorable. I also had the pleasure of working my high school summers for Auditor of State and will always enjoy those memories. She will be missed. God Bless.*

Richard Walt

Richard Walt - September 23, 2022 at 09:23 AM

GD

“*Julia, you have been on my mind so much lately, and now I know why. I will miss our amazing conversations, I will miss you in this world as a strong woman who led the way for other women. There are not enough words to say what our friendship meant to me. Rest well, Julia. You will be missed. My condolences to Julia's family. She was one of a kind and there was no one like her.*

Gloria Danvers - September 18, 2022 at 07:50 AM

RB

“*Julia was my neighbor for 4 years. A fascinating person! My memory is of Julia walking Angel around our complex. I'm sad Julia passed but fortunate to have known her! Dear Julia RIP, Rosemary Baird*

Rosemary Baird - September 16, 2022 at 05:34 PM

AR

“ David, Betsy & Lori, You are all in my thoughts and prayers. So many wonderful memories hanging out on Southwood Rd, walking to Holy Souls, sleepovers downstairs, listening to Hotel California under the table with speakers turned in and a few serious sit down talks with Julia! She was such a force and I will never forget her smile! And a few times she wasn't smiling with us haha! Sending so many hugs y'all's way. Ann Truemper Rogers

Ann Rogers - September 16, 2022 at 11:07 AM

CF

Dear David, Betsy & Lori - sending love your way ❤️ Miss you dearly - Courtney Raff Fletcher

Courtney Fletcher - September 24, 2022 at 06:51 PM

DR

“ My deepest sympathy...
Julia was a lifelong friend & was a trailblazer in so many ways
We Camdenites have been & will always be in support of Julia Mae
!!!!!!

David Reynolds - September 16, 2022 at 09:16 AM

KI

“ Julia and I met in 2002 I am pretty sure. We lived in the same apartment complex, we would meet up several times a day to walk our babies. I had a chihuahua (Princess Rosa Lee) and she had Divi at that time. I enjoyed talking with Ms Julia she was never at a loss of words. We both had a passion for our dogs. I moved away in 2007 and would still come over for walks with her. I know that Angel is going to really miss her. I had not realized she had done so much in her life. My condolences to all of her family and Angel, if you need anything, please reach out to me.

Kitty - September 15, 2022 at 03:23 PM

AH

“*Julia meant so much to me. She was like my second mom. She sure put up with a lot of late night pool shenanigans. Her favorite phrase.... “Well my Lord Lori!” She was smart, courageous and beautiful. A life well lived. So very sorry for your loss David, Betsy and Lori. Love you all.*”



anne heiselmann - September 15, 2022 at 01:08 PM

SY

“*I am so sorry for your loss. I grew up with her in First Methodist Church and CHS and admired her accomplishments. Sending thoughts and prayers.*”

SARA Edwards Yarborough - September 15, 2022 at 12:22 PM

SW

Lori, I'm so sorry to hear of your mother's passing. We had been in touch though Facebook for many years. She was such an inspiration to me. I learned so much working for her at the Arkansas Auditor of State. A colorful and intelligent woman, I admired her and appreciated the opportunities she gave me. My prayers are for peace and comfort for you and your family.

Scarlet White-Acklin - September 15, 2022 at 04:48 PM

CT

Julia & her little pup were my neighbors here on St Augustine Beach for the last nine years.

She was a lovely striking woman. Always well groomed & pretty as her picture indicates.

*We will all miss her.
Condolences to her family.*

Carolyn Tymowczak - September 15, 2022 at 06:21 PM

KB

David, Betsy and Lori, I am so sorry for the loss of your mother. I have lots of memories of her from childhood and enjoyed reconnecting with her as an adult. Lifting you all up in prayer.

Kay Briscoe - September 16, 2022 at 08:10 AM