



Jane Ellen "Holly" Hollingsworth Watts

August 9, 1931 - March 28, 2015

Jane Hollingsworth "Holly" Watts, 83, a lifelong resident of Knoxville, pioneer cytotechnologist at University of Tennessee Medical Center, and beloved wife and mother died peacefully on Saturday March 28th at sunrise. She is now with our Lord in heaven.

Holly was a community servant who had spread love and joy all around her. Born at Fort Sanders Hospital, she attended Brownlow Elementary and Christenberry Junior High School. She graduated from Old Knoxville High School, where she was an honor student and lettered in swimming and volleyball. Holly attended Stephens College in Columbia, MO and graduated from the University of Tennessee with a bachelor's degree in liberal arts in 1953. While at UT, Holly was a member of Alpha Omicron Pi, president of the Women's Student Government Association, and was named to Who's Who Among American Universities and Colleges.

In 1955, Holly received her certificate in medical technology from Old Knoxville General Hospital where she met her future husband, Intern Dr. Glenn Ferrell Watts. She earned her certification in histology at Good Samaritan Hospital in West Palm Beach, FL and then received her certification in cytology from UT College of Medicine in Memphis. In 1957, Holly was named head of the Cytology Department at UT Medical Center in Knoxville, becoming the first cytotechnologist in the East Tennessee area.

On June 20, 1959, she married Dr. Glenn Watts, Obstetrician/Gynecologist at First Presbyterian Church where they became an integral part of the First Church family, as did their children after them.

Holly was co-director of Jesus' Friends Sunday School Class for over 40 years. It is a class for adults with special needs. She was also a church Elder, serving as chairman of the Undershepherds and as a Stephen Minister. Holly also served as president of the group Women

of the Church.

She was a member of the Cherokee Garden Club and participated in the Dogwood Arts Open Gardens. An avid gardener, Holly represented the Knox County Council of Garden Clubs and was in charge of the Lakeshore Chapel flowers. She served as president of the Knoxville Academy of Medicine Auxiliary and was an active member of the Alpha Omicron Pi Alumnae. She served on many boards, including The Arthritis Foundation, Bachman Home, UT

Alumni Association, UT Women's Council, Knoxville Quarterback Club, Knoxville Teen Board, and the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities.

Holly was an enthusiastic health advocate. She developed Kinderdance for children and Exerdance for adults, both held at the West Side YMCA. She taught Exerdance for patients at Lakeshore Mental Health Hospital and "Joint Efforts" for The Arthritis Foundation.

Holly helped establish and facilitate a support group for arthritis patients at St. Mary's Hospital. In 2000, Holly completed pastoral care training at UT Medical Center Pastoral Care and served as a volunteer chaplain in the Radiation Oncology Department until 2008 when her health declined. Her greatest passion was visiting "shut-ins" in their homes and at medical facilities. Holly was well-known and well-loved by the residents of several local assisted-living and healthcare centers. She led Bible studies for seniors citizens until late last year.

Holly was the recipient of Sertoma's Service to Mankind Award, The Daughters of the American Revolution National Service Award, and The Arthritis Foundation's Lifetime Service Award. Holly was named State Volunteer of the Year by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and First Lady of Knoxville by Beta Sigma Phi.

Loved by all who knew her, Holly was warm, gracious, and kind to people from every walk of life. She was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, who cherished her family above all else.

Holly is preceded in death by her parents, Christine Wood Hollingsworth and John Burnette "Bonnie" Hollingsworth and by her husband, Glenn Ferrell Watts. She is survived by her four children: Rebekah Watts Ragsdale and husband Dennis; Hannah Watts Tiblier and husband Chris; Glenn (Bud) Watts Jr. and wife Laura; and Rachel Watts Trentham and husband Brent. She is also survived by nine grandchildren: AnDe Ragsdale Summitt and husband Tyler; Jack Ragsdale; Hollin, Selah, and Samuel Tiblier; Hunter and Hayden Watts; and Emmie and Belle Trentham. She is also survived by her brother, John (Jay) Burnette

Hollingsworth Jr., and many nieces and nephews, both great and great-great. Special thanks

to Samantha Spencer, Holly's wonderful caregiver for many years. Thank you as well to Manor House Assisted Living and a special thank you to the incredibly caring and capable folks at Little Creek Sanitarium for their love and kindness to "Miss Holly" and her family.

A memorial service will be held at First Presbyterian Church Knoxville on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 5:00 pm. Reception to follow the service at the church.

Pallbearers are Dennis Ragsdale, Chris Tiblier, Brent Trentham, Jack Ragsdale, Tyler Summitt, and Douglas Knutsen. Honorary Pallbearers are the members of the Jesus' Friends Sunday School class at First Presbyterian Church .

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to First Presbyterian Church, 620 State Street Knoxville, 37902, or Sertoma Center, 1400 E. Fifth Avenue Knoxville, 37917, or www.sertoma.com.

Services are under the direction of Rose Mortuary Mann Heritage Chapel 6200-Kingston Pike.

Friends may sign guest register at their convenience at Rose Mortuary Mann Mann Heritage chapel

or visit www.rosemortuary.com

Cemetery

Events

Greenwood Cemetery

3500 Tazewell Pike
Knoxville, TN,

APR

1

Funeral Service 05:00PM - 06:00PM

First Presbyterian Church
620 State Street, Knoxville, TN, US

APR

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Receiving of Friends Following The Service 06:00PM

First Presbyterian Church
620 State Street, Knoxville, TN, US

Comments



“ Dear Rachel, I was so very sorry to learn about your Mom - she was such a gracious and kind person. I remember Carrie telling me that "Sgt. Holly" was so nice and always made her feel at home. I saw your Mom at a few University Womens Club meetings; we sat together and talked about all of you and the grandchildren, and Carrie and her family. Keep the happy memories of her in your hearts - she will always be there for you and your family, Love, Carole Lundin

Carole Lundin - April 01, 2015 at 07:26 PM



“ We so loved Holly and her energy and dedication to Knoxville and friends and family. She was a neighbor and taught me modern dance and was an excellent teacher. If all were like her, our world would be brighter, kinder, and more successful.
Joan and Joe Purkey

Joe and Joan Purkey - April 01, 2015 at 05:55 PM



“ Bud-
I'm so sorry that Lynne and I are unable to attend the services today. Please know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers and have our deepest sympathy at this difficult time. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help.
-----Dave and Lynne Blair

Dave Blair - April 01, 2015 at 05:07 PM



“ When Jesus said, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all" (Mark 9:35), He was describing someone like Holly. In our own lives, we have seen very few people who have served so many different types of people in so many ways as she did. And, because Jesus always meant what he said, we expect to see Miss Holly near the front of the line when we get to heaven. Much love and sincere condolences to the family, Craig and Sue Wrisberg

Craig Wrisberg - April 01, 2015 at 11:50 AM



“ Blooming Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Jane Ellen "Holly" Hollingsworth Watts.



April 01, 2015 at 09:44 AM



“ What a beautiful and special lady your Mother truly was. She helped and touched so many peoples lives during her time on earth. She has definitely got to be wearing a Halo with full of jewels for all she did for her family and friends. One the neatest things about her is that she made each and every person she knew feel like they were very special. I remember meeting her and all her family at young age at Frist Presbyterian Church and spending many special times with them all. Just know Becky, Hannah, Bud, and Rachel plus your families that she is looking down on you all at every minute of the day and smiling at how very proud she is of you all and how much she loves you. What a beautiful legacy she has left. I feel honored and blessed to have gotten to be a part of her world for so long. I love you guys very much. Laney

Lane Freeman - March 31, 2015 at 12:19 PM



“ Hey Mega Sorry to hear about the passing of you Mom. I only met her a few time and what a lovely and gracious lady. Traci and I are keeping you and your family in our thoughts and prayers.
"What we have once enjoyed, we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us." Helen Keller

Darrel Lauderdale - March 31, 2015 at 11:07 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Jane Ellen "Holly" Hollingsworth Watts.



March 31, 2015 at 11:02 AM



“ Dear Bud and Becky and Rachel,

I'm so sorry to hear about your Mom. What a wonderful bio and picture of her. I see where you get your swimming abilities and where your girls come by their dance skills. I am thinking of each of you during this sad time.

With warm regards,

Jenny Banner

Jenny Banner - March 30, 2015 at 08:18 PM



“ Becky, Hannah, Bud and Rachel, My deepest condolences to you all from Boston. Your dear mom was a beautiful woman... always giving her all...whether it be with the AOPi's, Arthritis Foundation, her church, but most of all for you, her children. I remember seeing the scrap books, always a work in progress, and thinking what a special gift that was for her to make for each of you. May her memory be eternal. With love, Despina

Despina Stavros - March 30, 2015 at 04:10 PM



“ Dear Bud and girls, during the time I spent with your Mom was very special to me. I first met your Mom in the 60's at UT Hospital. I was amazed at how she related to her patients then. Within the last 2 years I had the privilege of going to Little Creek to play the piano for her when Betty wasn't able to go. Her Bible lessons always touched me. It amazed me how she told the story of Jesus and how the patients reacted to her. She loved singing the songs even if we were the only ones singing. Your Mother was an inspiration to everyone she came in contact with. I consider myself blessed to have been counted among that list. May God's love carry you all through this very hard time. She and your Dad are now reunited in Heaven! Love, Tootie Snyder:)

Tootie Snyder - March 30, 2015 at 09:36 AM



“ To the Watts Children, your mom was a very special lady. I can hear her and Dr. Watts laughing and having a good time in heaven. GOD BLESS YOU GUYS. Love, Mary Rachel Taylor Sheridan aka Mert

Mary Rachel Taylor Sheridan - March 29, 2015 at 10:56 AM



“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Tina Wood - March 29, 2015 at 01:54 AM



“ Sending lots of love to my Watts cousins. I always loved talking with Holly at extended family events (and she almost never missed any of them until her health declined.) We shared an interest in genealogy, and I marveled at her encyclopedic knowledge of our shared family tree and her enthusiasm about it. I remember one of the earliest times that I spoke with her, at one of the family weddings, that she had thought that my name was Christina because of her mother, but I had to explain that my name is actually Tina (and she took it in stride, if with a bit of surprise.) She led a full and remarkable life, and I'm glad to have known her and to have been in her family. I have a couple of pictures of a Wood gathering from probably the late 1950s or early 1960s that I will post in the photo section. I think she and/or her mother are in the pictures.

Much love,

Tina Wood

Warwick, RI

tinawood@cox.net

Tina Wood - March 29, 2015 at 01:52 AM