



Loretta Brennan

June 12, 1957 - March 31, 2022

Loretta Jones Brennan, 64, passed away on March 31, 2022, in Percy, AR, at her favorite place on Earth, Grayrock Farm. She and her husband, Terry Brennan, ran the horse farm, training, boarding and breeding thoroughbreds.

“Retta” discovered a love of horses at an early age, learning to ride on the farm her Grandma and Grandpa Jones, Arthur and Minnie, owned in Fouke, AR. She developed a passion for farm life, caring for the chickens, cows and hogs, and tending the extensive vegetable garden. Her grandmother would have been proud of the garden she and Terry built at Grayrock Farm, as well as their loving care of the horses, dogs and chickens. Retta was equally close to her maternal grandparents, Lila and Marion Upton, helping them run their grocery store in Texarkana, AR.

Retta was born June 12, 1957, to TP and Lucille Jones in Texarkana, AR, and was the youngest of three daughters. She is preceded in death by her sister Genevieve “Jeannie” Finley and is survived by her sister Patsy Haynes and brothers in law Danny Haynes and Dick Finley and a host of beloved nieces and nephews. The sisters grew up helping their parents at the family-owned Brady Mountain Resort on Lake Ouachita. Retta could be found water skiing, slaloming and even skiing on other people’s shoulders, except when she was in trouble and her parents made her host sightseeing trips on the Lady Ouachita tour boat.

Known by friends as Lolo, she was an incredibly welcoming, gracious and generous person, always willing to lend a helping hand, share a laugh, give a hug or prepare a meal. Although her culinary skills were extensive, she is best remembered for her famous fried chicken. You knew you were loved when Lolo prepared her fried chicken for you. She also never held back a compliment, often phrasing them in a self-deprecating way to get others to help her out. As she would say to Patsy, “You’re so much better at making gravy than I am. Would you please do it?”

She was over the moon when she became a grandmother, and though she had planned on being called Lolo, her first grandchild Annabel couldn’t pronounce her L’s, and a new nickname was born. “Yo-yo’s” children and grandchildren were the joy of her life: Zac and Abigail Jumper and children Annabel, Lila Fay and Holt of Knoxville, TN; Whit and Molly Jumper and children Lily, Lucille, Genevieve and Pierce of Austin, TX; Jena Petro and Karie Hobby and daughter Ally of Hot Springs; Kara Petro of Hot Springs; Blair Brennan and daughter Nola of Lawrence, KS; Lauren and Chris Mayo of Hot Springs; and Marci and Bryan Lowery and children Caddo (husband Dakota Wright) and Abe of Hot Springs.

The first to hit the dance floor, Yo-yo is surely orchestrating a Prince concert in heaven. In honor of her lifelong love of the singer, wearing purple is encouraged at the services. Visitation will begin at 11 a.m. at Piney Grove United Methodist Church on Thursday, April 7, followed by a celebration of life at 12 p.m. at Piney Grove United Methodist Church. She will be laid to rest after the services at Memorial Gardens Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Piney Grove UMC.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Gardens

Hot Springs, AR 71913

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 7. 11:00 AM.

Piney Grove United Methodist Church

Celebration of Life

APR 7. 12:00 PM (CT)

Piney Grove United Methodist Church
2963 Airport Road
Hot Springs, AR 71913

Tribute Wall

DE

“ Dear Retta,

To a beautiful lady inside and out. You were so kind to me when I joined the family. I still remember my 1st Christmas in Arkansas at Grayrock Farm. Wow, I had never seen anything like it. The whole family and so much fun! I still have the gifts I got from you and Terry. I will never part with them ever!

Through the years we have always stayed in touch. Maryland is pretty far from Arkansas. We have horses here in MD and I used to go to horse races such as the Preakness or Steeplechase Races but I never knew much about horses (except that they are beautiful). You were trying to teach me about horses. I remember March 2020, you were putting in a garden and a new baby filly was born all at the same time. That day I learned the difference between a filly and a foal.

I am so devastated that I won't see you again. I can only imagine how difficult it is for your family and friends. I wish them peace and love.

My wish for you is that you and Prince have already connected and you two are planning a huge Concert.

*Until we meet again,
Love Dianne Eden*

Dianne Eden - April 10, 2022 at 05:25 PM

DB

“ Our Sweet Loretta, many fun and fond memories, too numerous and too fun to mention here :) Loretta, was kind to everyone, overly so at times, loving, caring, giving, and always making everyone she knew like one of her family. We worked together (best boss-lady I ever had) at the HBPA Office during two race meets, we prayed together each morning, and I would read our morning devotional, and some mornings Chaplain Rich came by to pray with us. An exciting and beautiful lady to have known, loved and will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved her. She loved her family and her friends, and held a special place in all of our hearts. Words cannot express how dearly she is loved by so many. I have always felt close to the Jones Family. My aunt and Lucille were very close horse racing and casino buddies, traveling many times to many casinos, and having so much fun together. Of course, they had to have a driver, so there goes Precious (Patsy) on a trip, then Loretta, then me, and then whoever else would take them where they wanted to go. I met Loretta after she the children moved to Hot Springs, and I cannot say enough about her dear children. I love the entire family! Thank you for being my friend, Loretta, and I always want to be a friend to your family. God bless you, Terry, and thank you for being my friend. Please know that if I can be help to you or any of the family, do not hesitate to contact me. God willing, we can all dance when we see Loretta again!
Gone - Never Forgotten!!!

Donna Blackwood - April 07, 2022 at 11:13 AM

JR

“ *The Rowe Family loves all of the TP and Lucille Jones Family. Sure was a bunch of them! Brady Mt was a wonderful place to grow up, and I was lucky enough to see Loretta grow into a wonderful, warm, caring, lovely lady.*

I don't know what Heaven looks like for everyone else, but I bet Retta's has fast ski boats, calm wide open water just begging to cut up by a slalom, and her family close by. We'll see her again.

J.M. Rowe - April 07, 2022 at 06:38 AM

ZR

“ *Growing up with Jena and Kara, I have so many fond memories of Loretta - more than I can count. She will truly be missed, and we were all blessed to know her. Sending my deepest condolences...*

Zach Ryles - April 06, 2022 at 08:16 PM

JB

“ Two of the finest ladies I have ever had the pleasure to know in the Hot Springs area happen to be sisters and one of them was Loretta Brennan. I met her through one of her dear friends and an acquaintance of mine in 2016. She treated me and everyone I ever saw come into contact with her like members of her family. The last time I saw her a small group of us were all sitting in her hot tub laughing and carrying on as if we hadn't a care in the world. Loretta had that effect on people she invited into her home. You knew that if you were going to hang out with her and Terry that you were going to have a fabulous time. Nothing else in the world mattered and she could keep you laughing all evening long. Her delightful sense of humor, and non-judgmental personality that embraced the best all that she encountered, were not something you see everyday in this world. The world and especially the Hot Springs racing community was touched by her presence and that is why losing her will leave a deep scar on all who knew her. God must have felt that heaven needed a little brightening up as he called one of his sweetest and most colorful flowers home. As for the rest of us, we are sad, hurt and the scarring left from losing her will be felt until the day we die, but will hurt a little less as we remember just how blessed we were to have one of God's most beautiful creations in our lives even if for such a short time.
My heart goes out to Terry, the kids, and Pasty and her family for this tragic loss. May God bless and keep you all in his comfort.

Regards,
J. Christopher Bates

J. Christopher Bates - April 05, 2022 at 06:25 PM

Jl

I will always be looking for her when I am at the track where we always visited in front of my window the upper pad and the boxes will seem so empty now

jillblanchard - April 06, 2022 at 10:33 AM

RJ

Knew sweet Loretta when Jena and sister were young and visited dad down street.. our kids grew up together.. then realized Mom was Patty's sister.. so yes 2 of my favorite people.. my heart hurts for Patsy..Terry ..kids and grands. I always had to stop at Loretta's box every Derby day to get a picture of hat and outfit.. was hard this year to avoid that box.. love you girls.. will miss loretta deeply

Rucina Johnson - April 06, 2022 at 09:40 PM

RJ

Oops corrections..typo..Patsy

Rucina Johnson - April 06, 2022 at 09:42 PM

KT

“ I have known Loretta through Shelly and Ladonna for most of my adult life! She was always so warm and funny and the life of any get together! Always loving and laughing.. she was so so proud of all her children and grands and there is no doubt, that they were her life.. she will be truly missed by all her many friends and her entire family! Kris Tortorice



Kris Tortorice - April 04, 2022 at 07:53 PM

DC

“ Retta shared the same love for dancing as many of us did with her. Retta wanted to learn how to line dance so bad, so at one of her many Tuesday night cookouts during the race meet she decided that was the night she wanted to learn. We laughed til we were crying as we gathered around the pool area and proceeded to teach her her how to line dance. On Saturday nights after a day at the race track she would tell me to go tell Terry that we were going to Smiley's and they needed to come with us so she could come dancing and yes Terry would always say "OK". Retta you were a true ray of sunshine in everyone's life. Your smile, love and your passion of giving to others will forever be missed. I love you beyond what words can express. I still have the dress you gave me to wear to the HORSEMANS BALL and i will forever cherish that sweet gift. REST IN LOVE my sweet friend.

DONNA COX - April 04, 2022 at 04:37 PM

CF

“ There are so many great memories! One of my favorites was the day Loretta and I went to the store leaving our dearly departed friend Sam Anderson with Zach & Whit, they were 2 & 4 years old. Returning in a few minutes we find Sam tied to a kitchen chair & Whit in his cowboy hat, diaper & toy pistol exclaiming “I’m a mean Cowboy” Loretta & I laughed some hard!!! Prayers of peace and joy to the family. Carol Friedman  

Carol Friedman - April 04, 2022 at 04:31 PM

JB

“ Terry, I am so sorry for your loss. You and Loretta were both always so kind to me when I started in the racing office at OP. Loretta will be missed by many in the racing and Hot Springs community. My thoughts are with you and your family. Jamie Holloman Bradley

Jamie Holloman Bradley - April 04, 2022 at 02:54 PM