



## Adelia "Possie" Raiford

April 20, 1944 - November 21, 2025

Adelia Cochran Raiford, lovingly known as "Possie," 81, passed away peacefully on November 21, 2025, in Asheville, North Carolina, surrounded by her family who adored her.

Born on April 20, 1944, in Atlanta, GA, to the late Rev. Charles Barrett and Margaret Thompson Cochran, she graduated from Decatur High School, Asbury University, and Georgia State University. Though she cherished her Georgia roots, Possie joyfully followed her grandchildren from Atlanta to Mount Pleasant, SC, and most recently to Asheville, NC. She was a longtime member of St. John's United Methodist Church in Atlanta and St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Mount Pleasant.

A woman of grace, deep faith, and extraordinary generosity, Possie lived her life as a reflection of God's love. She had a remarkable gift for teaching, whether educating people on drug and alcohol prevention, mentoring women in their walk with Christ, or quietly modeling perseverance amid suffering. Her career with the Prevention Research Institute in Lexington, KY, allowed her to pursue the writing, research, and teaching she treasured. She helped establish a recovery ministry at her church in Atlanta and later served with Drawing Near to God Ministry in Charleston, where her wisdom shaped many lives.

Possie also knew how to bring joy. She loved to host, loved a good party, and filled every home with warmth and laughter. She made people feel seen and celebrated, whether she was setting a beautiful table, sharing a story, or offering guidance in the kitchen.

She treasured many things, but nothing more than her family. Her greatest honor was being a mother and grandmother. She poured immeasurable love into her grandchildren, Mary Miles, Claire, and Rai Faulkenberry of Asheville, NC, and Richie and Maxwell Raiford of Nashville, TN. She was fully present for their milestones and all the everyday moments.

Possie is survived by her son, Richard Weldon Raiford Jr. (Kristin) of Nashville, TN; daughter, Windsor Faulkenberry (Scott) of Fairview, NC; sister, Yvonne Cochran Moulton (Alan) of Wilmore, KY; sister-in-law, Pat Raiford Thomas (Butch) of Pawley's Island, SC; and niece, Holly Raiford (Dave) of Marietta, GA. She was predeceased this year by her loving husband of 55 years, Richard Weldon Raiford Sr., and by siblings Ramona Turman, Juanita Russell, and Emerson Cochran. She leaves behind many beloved Cochran nieces and nephews, each with a cherished Aunt Possie story.

As we celebrate her life, we rest in the peace of knowing that Possie is now free from the limitations of Multiple Sclerosis as she steps into the eternal life she faithfully prepared for.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held on January 17 at 2:00 PM with visitation immediately following at Central United Methodist Church in Asheville, NC.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites memorial donations to be made to Drawing Near to God Ministry, PO Box 1274, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29465



# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JAN 17. 2:00 PM (ET)

Central United Methodist Church  
27 Church Street  
Asheville, NC 28801

*with Visitation Immediately Following the Service*

# Tribute Wall

RC

“*Possie was one of first persons I met when I was the DUI Program Coordinator for the state of Georgia. She was part of the Prevention Research Institute staff and we immediately became friends. I always admired her business acumen, her humor, her style and her love of life. We referred to each other as “Po & Ro because we were a real pair in so many ways. We worked well together and had so much fun. Over the years I’d often ask about her and we spoke a few times during her extended illness, always laughing about something. I am heartbroken knowing she is no longer with us but rejoice in knowing she is no longer suffering. Possie was a wonderful person and I thank God for allowing our paths to cross. May her legacy of love and kindness continue to live on in the family she adored. Rest easy my friend...until we meet again. Always Po & Ro!*”



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Rowena Conley - January 17 at 12:47 PM



“*Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Adelia "Possie" Raiford.*”



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January 15 at 08:28 AM

RD

“*Possie was a dear friend and colleague at Prevention Research Institute. She touched so many lives and served as a professional mentor to so many instructors and trainers in the Talking About Alcohol and Drugs Series and Prime for Life programs. When she believed in something she gave it her all. She never apologized for having very high standards and expectations for those she mentored because, as she loved to say, “We must hold high standards because this program can change lives.” Possie had a unique ability to both encourage people and to entertain with her quick wit and remarkable sense of humor. Everyone who knew her and worked with her had lots of Possie stories. Decades after health forced her retirement, people she impacted still ask, “How is Possie?” I loved her and will miss her as will so many others. She was truly “one of a kind.” It was a joy and privilege to know her and work with her.*

*Ray Daugherty*

*Cameron, Montana*

*Co-Founder, Prevention Research Institute*

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**Ray Daugherty** - December 17, 2025 at 06:00 PM



*Thank you so much, Ray, for your kind words. She loved you and all of her colleagues at PRI. She missed her days there and still talked about them.*

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**Windsor Faulkenberry** - December 17, 2025 at 07:44 PM

HR

“ Aunt Possie was enormously generous and kind to me. My earliest memories of her go back to age 6, when I was dazzled by her beauty and motherly attention. She was consistently there for me throughout my lifetime, in both good and bad times. There is so much to say about Aunt Possie, but the best summary is that she was a force for good and a light to those whose lives she touched. I miss her profoundly.



Heidi Russell  
Niece  
Lexington, KY

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Heidi Russell - December 17, 2025 at 12:58 PM



She sure loved you, Heidi!

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Windsor Faulkenberry - December 17, 2025 at 07:45 PM

SA

Dear Winsor & Family,  
We did not know Possie very long at BH but she was always so beautiful, friendly, and had a great sense of humor. She will be with the rest of the Angels, may she Rest In Peace.  
Sandra & Bill Abromitis

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Sandra Abromitis - January 16 at 03:19 PM