



Ruth Anne "Penni" Drake Thompson

December 15, 1941 - August 16, 2022

Ruth Anne "Penni" Drake Thompson, age 80, of Asheville, NC died on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, due to complications of heart disease. She was born on December 15, 1941, in Hendersonville, NC, and was the daughter of the late Preston Eugene and Ruth Talley Drake. Shortly after birth, her father nicknamed her "Penni" based upon her copper complexion. The jaundice improved but the nickname stuck, and she remained known as Penni throughout her life. Penni earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from UNC-Greensboro (then Women's College). She worked as an audiologist for Buncombe County Schools for a large part of her career, also having been the audiologist for the North Carolina School for the Deaf in Morganton, NC, and having taught history at East Henderson High School in Flat Rock, NC.

Penni was dedicated to the children and families that she served during her career and a tireless advocate for their needs. She enjoyed listening to jazz music, participating in arts and crafts (particularly cross-stitch), and spending time with and talking about her grandchildren. Penni was an avid UNC-Chapel Hill Men's Basketball fan, and planned vacations, appointments, and outings around when the Tar Heels would be playing. Despite the memory challenges she experienced in recent years, she never forgot her love for her Heels and her loathing of all things DOOK. She was truly loved by her friends and family and will be deeply missed.

Penni is survived by her husband of 52 years, Lawrence "Larry" Edward Thompson, III, of the home; a daughter, Heather Thompson Mackey and husband Donald of Kernersville, NC; a son, Christopher Drake Thompson and wife Cindy of St. Louis, MO; four grandchildren, Madison Paige Thompson of St. Louis, MO; Elizabeth Preston Mackey of Kernersville, NC; Reagan Nicole Thompson of St. Louis, MO; and Samuel Christopher Mackey of Kernersville, NC.

Family will receive friends on Friday, September 16, 2022, from 6-7:30 pm at Morris Funeral Home, 304 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville, NC. Funeral services will be 11am Saturday, September 17, 2022 at The Cathedral of All Souls in Asheville, 9 Swan Street, Asheville, NC with The Reverend Will Bryant officiating. Reception will immediately follow the service at church. Burial will follow the ceremony at Pleasant Hill Cemetery, 3000 Old Kanuga Road, Hendersonville, NC. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the young adult ministry (EYC) of The Cathedral of All Souls, 9 Swan Street, Asheville, NC 28803, or a charity of one's choice.

Previous Events

Family will Receive Friends

SEP **16.** 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Morris Funeral & Cremation Care
304 Merrimon Ave.
Asheville, NC 28801
(828) 252-1821
info@morrisfamilycare.com
<http://www.morrisfamilycare.com>

Memorial Service

SEP **17.** 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

The Cathedral of All Souls
9 Swan Street
Biltmore Village
Asheville, NC 28803
<http://www.allsoulscathedral.org/>

Reception

SEP **17.** 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

The Cathedral of All Souls
9 Swan Street
Biltmore Village
Asheville, NC 28803
<http://www.allsoulscathedral.org/>

Graveside Service

SEP 17. 1:30 PM (ET)

Pleasant Hill Cemetery
3000 Old Kanuga Road
Hendersonville, NC 28739

Tribute Wall



“ *Ruth Anne "Penni" Drake Thompson*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *Penni was truly a remarkable person...someone I loved and admired. Her love for her family was boundless, and she was, of course, totally smitten with her grandchildren.*

Penni's undaunted determination to stand on her convictions was legendary. She was always, without exception, a tireless advocate for children. Her intelligence, warmth and humor, along with her feisty spirit, made time spent in Penni's presence a pleasure. Knowing Penni for 40+ years was a gift, and I am so thankful that I could call her "friend."

Larry, Heather, Christopher and family, you are in my thoughts and prayers.

*With warm regards,
Wanda Bradford*

Wanda Bradford - September 17, 2022 at 01:53 PM



“ *I enjoyed visiting with Penni and Larry on an occasional Friday at Bonefish Grill & talking about our professional lives. She was such an outgoing, animated woman. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family.*

Jean Baker - September 17, 2022 at 10:59 AM

JG

“ Larry: we are thinking of you today and this weekend. John Graeter and Linda McLean

John Graeter - September 14, 2022 at 08:19 AM

JW

“ So many memories! Penni and I were best friends at Flat Rock High School. We were cheerleaders together. She was always a wonderful and dear friend. Though I went to college at BYU and she stayed in NC, I have always treasured our friendship, her wit and keen mind, and my teenage years when we were so close. I grieve with you Larry, Heather, Christopher and grandchildren. I love you Penni. Joyce Hyder Wight

Joyce Wight - September 10, 2022 at 04:16 PM

KS

“ All of the Eidson's were very sad to hear about Penni passing away. She always did a wonderful job making all 5 of us feel welcome in her home. She never seemed rushed or inconvenienced but just happy to sit and chat. We all have very sweet memories of her. My prayers and sympathy for you all,
Kim (Eidson) Simon

Kim (Eidson) Simon - September 09, 2022 at 04:49 PM

LW

“ Larry, I, too, am saddened to learn of Penni's passing. I am thinking of you and your family during this difficult time. I am sorry to miss Penni's service. I will be out of town.
Louise Cate Wernicke

Louise Cate Wernicke - September 08, 2022 at 01:04 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Ruth Anne "Penni" Drake Thompson.*



September 05, 2022 at 10:58 PM



“ *Larry, I was so sad to hear about the passing of your dear Penni. I remember her from St. John's, and her energy in preparing for the yard sale at the church. You and your family have my deepest sympathy. Sara Davis*

Sara Davis - September 04, 2022 at 01:12 PM



“ *Our hearts are saddened to learn of the passing of Penni. We spent many hours with Penni when we were all young. If we weren't at her home on Sunday afternoons, she was at our home in Greenville. We always looked up to her and recognized how intelligent she was. We shall always cherish the pictures we have of her that were made on the front steps of our house. Peace be with you Larry, and with Heather and Christopher.*
Love,
Beth Snyder Rice

Beth Rice - September 01, 2022 at 10:31 AM



“ *So sorry to hear about Penni's passing. She was a classy lady whom I know will be missed by her family and friends. My condolences to my friend, Larry, and the family during this difficult time.*

Richard B. Hurley - August 28, 2022 at 08:31 PM

JC

“ I was so sorry to hear of Penni’s passing. She was always a truly great friend and we had so many laughs together. I will always remember her wry sense of humor and miss those good times when had when we both worked at Herring School. My thoughts and prayers are with you Larry and to your family.
“While we are mourning the loss of our friend, others are rejoicing to meet her behind the veil.” -John Taylor
Joe Cummings

Joe Cumminbgs - August 24, 2022 at 03:00 PM