



Judith Rae Evans

June 28, 1943 - January 24, 2016

Judith Rae Evans (1943-2016)

Judith Rae Evans passed away in Alexandria, Virginia, on Sunday, January 24, 2016, after a long period of declining health.

Judy was born on June 28, 1943, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Darwin Eschler and Genee Wangsgaard Evans. When she was three, her father established a dental practice in Smithfield, Utah, and she attended Summit Elementary, Smithfield Junior High, and North Cache High Schools. She graduated from Utah State University with a degree in elementary education, and taught in the Granite School District in Salt Lake City for two years. She moved to Arizona, obtained a Master's of Education from Arizona State University, and accepted a teaching position in Casa Grande. She also taught for two years in the Department of Defense elementary school in Erlangen, Germany. While in Germany, her hearing deteriorated and she determined that she could no longer function in a classroom setting. She returned to Smithfield and worked as a secretary for the Department of Business at Utah State while undergoing operations to restore her hearing. In 1973, she moved to the Washington DC area to work for the Department of Agriculture in International Training, devising individualized programs for students from Africa, Asia, and South America who came to the United States to study agriculture, a career that spanned 25 years.

Though she suffered from a congenital bone disease, osteogenesis

imperfecta, and suffered over a dozen fractures during her childhood and teenage years, Judy was determined to live a full and active life. And she did so with purpose and panache until the injuries she sustained in a tragic fall left her disabled and wheelchair-bound five years ago.

Judy had wide-ranging interests and talents. She loved music, played the piano, had a lovely singing voice, and enjoyed sharing music with others. As time went on, her beautiful, clear soprano deepened to a mellow tenor, and her continuing hearing loss eventually robbed her of her music. Her skill at cross-stitch and embroidery produced countless beautiful objects which she bestowed upon those she loved.

She was fascinated by other cultures and traveled widely, often with one or another of her nieces and nephews as companions. Her work with foreign students brought her additional opportunities to learn about different parts of the world.

Judy was a master storyteller and a gifted teacher. Her genuine interest in people and her ability to connect and communicate with both children and adults extended her influence to hundreds of people over her life. Although her siblings provided her with twelve nieces and nephews, she claimed 140 people, born or married into her family and adopted, who call her 'Aunt Judy' with great fondness.

Judy made learning fun. When one of her nieces complained that studying history was 'boring', Judy determined to show her otherwise. The result was a meticulously researched, deftly written manuscript for a young adult novel which chronicled the Norman Conquest and the Battle of Hastings as seen through the eyes of two teenage boys, one Saxon and the other Norman.

A lifelong member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Judy filled many roles in the congregations, teaching children, youth, and adults, inspiring other teachers, and providing music in many church venues. She was one of the first single sisters called as temple workers when the Washington DC temple was built, and she served diligently for many years.

Judy is survived by her brother Joseph David (Becky) Evans of Springfield VA,

two sisters, Mary Lynn (Frank) Hutchison of Spokane WA and Darla Genee (Jeffrey) Blackmon of Hanover Park IL, and many, many nieces and nephews, both born and adopted. Her parents, a sister-in-law (Tanya) and two brothers, Christen Neil and Robert Bruce, preceded her in death.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, January 30th, at the Mount Vernon Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2000 George Washington Parkway, Alexandria VA 22308. A viewing will start at 10 am, followed by the service at 11 am. Burial will be in the Smithfield UT City Cemetery on Wednesday, February 3rd at 2 pm.

Funeral arrangements are by Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center St, Manassas, VA 20110.

Tribute Wall

CD

“ I am saddened to learn of the passing of a life long dear friend. My earliest memories hold recollections of Judy. We traveled the same route and schools in our education, including Elementary Education at USU. We also did the Maypole dance together on Health Days. these bountiful memories of Judy and the Evans family are dear to me. God bless you all. Chad E Downs

chad e downs - February 02, 2016 at 12:12 PM

TH

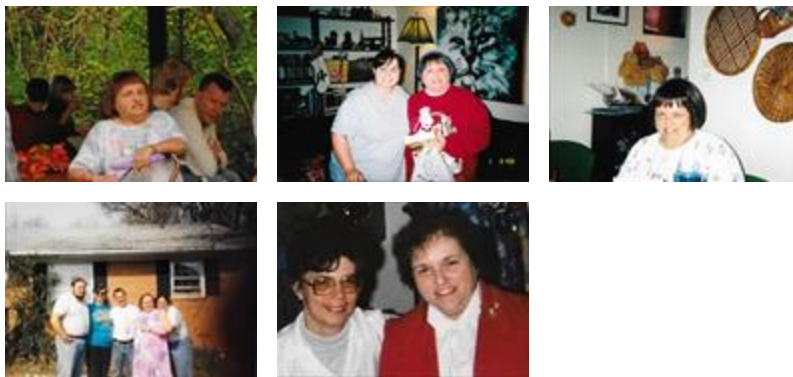
“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Thea - January 29, 2016 at 08:12 PM

TH

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Thea - January 29, 2016 at 08:09 PM

BL

“ I am one of her adopted families. Mike Evans comment on Aunt Judy taping books on their car rides resonates with me. After reading "Please Mr. Elephant Don't Sneeze" 10 times to my then two year old Jenny, Aunt Judy came over and I gave her the book and set up the tape recorder and never had to read that book to Jenny again.

After that Aunt Judy made tapes of children's songs for us, which we wore out with constant use. We were all fortunate to have her in our lives, not only my children, but my children's children. She will be greatly missed.

Barbara Legaz - January 29, 2016 at 09:44 AM

ME

“ My Aunt Judy was more than just any old Aunt. She never married or had kids so she moved from Utah to Virginia just to live near my Dad, so she could be part of the lives of her nieces and nephews (she had 12 and “adopted” about 30 more [oops! maybe 130 more according to her obit]). She was the one who taught me that friends knock on the front door, but family just walks in and says “Hello! I’m here!” She took each of us on yearly overnight outings of our choosing (my favorites were Smithsonian museums). Before we graduated, she took each of us on a week-long adventure – mine was a bus tour of England and Scotland that I will never, NEVER forget. She wrote us monthly in College, sending small “scholarship” checks.

She read compulsively. I believe her condo had walls but you couldn’t really tell behind the bookshelves. When we went on long car trips, she would read books onto cassette tapes so we didn’t die of boredom. She herself wrote a book – historical fiction of all things: the Battle of Hastings seen through the eyes of 2 teenage boys, one Norman one Saxon. Her family had better get their act together and get it published at some point.

She did all this while being super careful with herself – she was born with Osteogenesis Imperfecta (like Samuel L. Jackson’s “Mr. Glass” in the movie “Unbreakable”). She lived her life (and lived it well) knowing that a stumble or slip could end life as she knew it – bravely facing each day and refusing to let her obstacles or disappointments define her. Unfortunately, “the big one” came a few years ago. Her actual passing is somewhat of a relief and a release from incarceration in a body that could no longer do the things she wanted it to do.

But to say I was fortunate to have her as my aunt would be a gross understatement. I was blessed beyond measure.

Mike Evans - January 27, 2016 at 02:31 PM