



Judy Russell Christenberry

August 5, 1944 - November 8, 2013

Graveside services for Judy Russell Christenberry age 69 of Dallas are scheduled for 2:00 P.M. Tuesday, November 12, 2013 in the Lindale City Cemetery under the direction of Caudle-Rutledge Funeral Home of Lindale.

Judy was born August 5, 1944 in Dallas, Texas the daughter of the late Robert George and Alma Faye (Stafford) Russell. She passed away Friday, November 8, 2013 in Plano. Judy lived in the Dallas area most of her life and taught French at Highland Park High School for over 20 years. Judy was a successful Harlequin Romance author, publishing over 100 novels. She was a member of the Romance Writers of America and Dallas Area Romance Authors. Her most popular series, 4 Brides for 4 Brothers, centered around a family of Wyoming ranchers named the Randalls. Judy was also an avid sports fan and loved to watch her Texas Rangers.

She is survived by her daughters, Laura Christenberry and husband Michel Rooyen of Holland, Christina Robare and husband Lee of Plano; granddaughter, Sophia Rooyen of Holland; sisters, Barbara Russell Hunt and husband Ralph of Dallas, Peggy Russell Decker and husband Ray of Quitman and a brother, Tom Russell and wife Ann of Austin.

Family will receive friends from noon till 1:30 Tuesday prior to the service at the funeral home.

A memorial reception will be held at 6:00 PM Tuesday evening in Dallas. For information about the reception please email the family at christenberryreception@gmail.com

Cemetery Details

Lindale City Cemetery

702 West South Street
Lindale, TX 75771

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 12. 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Caudle-Rutledge-Daugherty Funeral Home
206 West South Street
Lindale, TX 75771
(903) 882-3141
jeff@crdfh.com

Graveside Service

NOV 12. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Lindale City Cemetery
702 West South Street
Lindale, TX 75771

Tribute Wall



“ *Caudle-Rutledge-Daugherty Funeral Directors created a Tribute Video in memory of Judy Russell Christenberry*



Caudle-Rutledge-Daugherty Funeral Home - November 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Judy Russell Christenberry*

October 05, 2023 at 02:48 AM



“ *Judy Russell Christenberry*

October 05, 2023 at 12:01 AM



“ *I knew Judy from her (and my) TCU days. She was always a lady and carried herself with dignity. Wherever she found herself the Baptist church profited greatly from her participation. Over one-hundred romance novels! I'll bet if we could bring her back, she would write a hundred more. Like so many, I consider myself lucky for knowing her. A true lady, indeed.*
Ray Jennison

Ray Jennison - January 22, 2023 at 02:05 PM



“ *judy, i think of you often and we are always laughing and enjoying being friends, going to graduate school together, and sharing teaching experiences. we were friends long before you became a published writer bringing great joy to many, and i always knew you could be anything-- a wonderful friend, teacher, and author. love you, dear judy.*
kay parsons

kay parsons - March 31, 2019 at 02:30 AM



“ *I had a funny feeling she had passed and did a search just now (10/15) She was such a great writer and I loved all her books. I am presently re-reading her Randall series which I feel is her best work. I will always cherish her books. So sad to hear that she is gone. My deepest sympathy to her family, friends, and all of us who loved her books. Rest in peace, sweet lady. God bless.*

Peg Fragale - October 25, 2015 at 12:30 PM



“ *I'm so saddened by the loss of this great lady. I worked with her at several RWA conferences when I was on the Board, and she was a joy to be around. The world will be emptier without her. I'm so sorry for your loss.*

Kathy Clark

Kathy Wernly - November 17, 2013 at 12:38 AM

JM

“ Oh, I'm just knocked over by this sad news. Judy was a writer colleague and friend, and I treasured her. She had a generous spirit and a loving heart. And, oh, heavens, was she funny--such good company, such a good person.

Your loss is shared by all of us who knew and treasured her.

Jimmie Morel

Jimmie Morel - November 15, 2013 at 02:33 PM

JB

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I had Mrs. Christenberry for French 1 back in 1986/87. She was a wonderful teacher. She tried countless times to help me roll my r 's! She was a caring and compassionate teacher. She had a great impact on me and I remember coming in early for tutorials and she would be working on her romance novels. It was a blessing to have had our paths cross!

Jami Osborne Brookhart

Jami Osborne Brookhart - November 14, 2013 at 08:25 AM

LP

“ Judy was a lovely and talented lady, and a consummate professional. I am proud to have served as her agent throughout her career, and I will always cherish the many memories of our 20-year partnership. A beloved member of the Curtis Brown family, she will be sorely missed. The thousands upon thousands of readers whose lives she touched are a fitting legacy for a great and talented lady. The thoughts and prayers of all of us at Curtis Brown, Ltd. are with her family.

*Laura Blake Peterson
Vice President
Curtis Brown, Ltd.*

Laura Blake Peterson - November 12, 2013 at 01:23 PM

TR

“ I've never had the opportunity to meet Judy but I've heard wonderful things about her from her Daughter, Christina. Christina - I am so sorry for the loss of your Mother. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this time.

May you find peace and comfort knowing she's in a better place.

*Sincerely,
Tracey Dewar*

Tracey - November 12, 2013 at 01:17 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Judy Russell Christenberry.



November 12, 2013 at 11:52 AM

MG

“ I am so sorry to hear about Judy's passing. She was a great lady. Barbara, I know how dear she was to you all. My thoughts are with you and your entire family. I know you all have a great strength in faith and will support each other. Love, Mary Gray

Mary Gray - November 12, 2013 at 10:51 AM

PB

“ I was first a fan of Judy's writing from her 2nd book on and my love of her writing grew and grew with each additional book. I fell in love with her Randall's. I sent her an email and much to my surprise, she answered. After that first one, we emailed every day for a long time and we became friends. We talked on the phone several times and a lovelier lady I have yet to meet. My sincere condolences to Laura and Chris and her family. I will miss her but I will treasure our friendship and will cherish her books forever. Thank you God for bringing Judy into my life. Rest in peace, dear friend. Love, Pat Bennett Indiana

Pat Bennett - November 12, 2013 at 07:43 AM

JO

“ Always loved Judy's books and listening to her terrific workshops. She was a grand lady and we were all blessed to have known her, Joan Overfield

Joan Overfield - November 11, 2013 at 03:26 PM

LI

“ I am so very sorry for you and your family's loss. I know how much you loved your Mom and how much you will miss her. I never had the opportunity to meet her but I know she was a wonderful and interesting woman from all of the memories that you have shared with me.

I wish you all peace and comfort at this time,

Lindsey Corley


Lindsey - November 11, 2013 at 03:02 PM

LS

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

Liese Sherwood-Fabre

Liese Sherwood-Fabre - November 11, 2013 at 02:16 PM

 Ale
Snape Li

“ My deepest condolences. She was a great author.

Ale Snape Li - November 11, 2013 at 02:04 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Judy Russell Christenberry.



November 11, 2013 at 01:35 PM

GK

“ I first met Judy at a DARA meeting nine years ago. When I tried to get published and began receiving rejections, I phoned Judy. She talked me through my anxiety and told me she had many manuscripts that would never get published. I'll never forget her words. She said, "Gay, rejected manuscripts serve a point; every single one of them has made you a better writer." Those words stuck, and I thank Judy from the bottom of my heart for her kind heart, Christian spirit, and encouragement. Rest in Peace, Judy.

Gay Ann Kiser - November 11, 2013 at 01:17 PM

RF

“ I met Judy a long time ago at a writer's conference in Kansas City. Then when she moved to Phoenix, the writers there and those of us from Tucson benefited from her talent and generosity of spirit. We used to catch up at conferences until she was no longer able to attend. Her beautiful books are a fitting legacy. She will be missed, however. Roz Denny Fox/writer

Roz Denny Fox - November 11, 2013 at 12:37 PM

KL

“ My friendship with Judy was a huge part of my life for many years. At one time we talked almost every day. It was our writing careers that brought us together, but the friendship extended to all parts of our lives. I have so many fond memories, but my favorite, I think, is when we climbed Diamondhead in Hawaii. She was so mad at me for dragging her there! But we laughed and laughed about it. Judy was so generous with her help and advice, and she knew so much. She got such joy from writing and she just wanted other people to experience the same thing. I've missed her so much since I moved away, and I will even more now. But I'm resolved to cherish the good times, and to take heart in the fact that she's at peace now.

Karen Leabo - November 11, 2013 at 12:30 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Judy Russell Christenberry.*



November 11, 2013 at 11:59 AM



“ *Did not know Judy, but I am a Christenberry. Did not realize there were more Christenberrys in this area. MY grandfather moved to Texas in about 1913. We are trying to carry on the name. A nephew and 2 great nephews in East Texas. Very interesting. Ms. Bennie Christenberry Moore. Phone 972-651-3447. Sorry for your loss.*

Bennie Christenberry Moore - November 11, 2013 at 11:39 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Judy Russell Christenberry.*



November 11, 2013 at 11:06 AM



“ *Judy was a mentor to me as a young writer. Her warmth and smile will never be forgotten. She was an amazing romance writer and a wonderful, beautiful lady. I was blessed to have known her and so fortunate to read her books and learn from her. My prayers are with her friends and family. God Bless.*

Alisha Wilson - November 11, 2013 at 10:15 AM

SM

“ *Judy was an inspiration and a great mentor to many authors at Dallas Area Romance Authors. She'll be missed. Her career as a Harlequin author was an inspiration to many of our authors. Rest in peace Judy.*

Sylvia McDaniel - November 11, 2013 at 07:31 AM

KP

“ *'you cannot open a book without learning something.' confucius and you, my beautiful friend, loved and shared words through your inspired teaching and your books that reached so many. being an english grad student with you is a lifetime memory. you are forever in my heart.*
kay parsons

kay parsons - November 11, 2013 at 03:14 AM

SS

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. She was always a smiling face I looked for at every romance writing convention. She will be missed.*

Sharon Sala
Oklahoma



Sharon Sala - November 10, 2013 at 11:12 PM

QC

“ *Quitman First Baptist Church Singles Class purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Judy Russell Christenberry.*



Quitman First Baptist Church Singles Class - November 10, 2013 at 06:07 PM

CB

“ *Carla Bracale purchased the Books of Love for the family of Judy Russell Christenberry.*



Carla Bracale - November 10, 2013 at 01:43 PM

GP

“ *I first met Judy at a DARA meeting. Her warmth and engaging smile offered true friendship that lasted many years while I was a member. I consider Judy the epitome of kindness and honesty, genuine helpfulness, and joy. Although I was not around her for many years, I will remember her helping me in my struggles in writing, and mostly, that smile ... Yes, mostly her smile. She was a gift to all of us.*

Guy Prater

Guy Prater - November 10, 2013 at 11:32 AM

EF

“ *I remember Judy best from the early 90s, as her daughter Christina and I were close friends in middle school. Judy was always so friendly and welcoming when I would come to her home, and such a positive person to be around. It was very inspiring to walk into her home and see her book covers framed on the wall. As an adult I approached her about some writing tips and she graciously offered me some hints. She didn't have to do that but she did, and it's so like her to be so giving. While it's been many years since I had seen her I still think of her when I walk into a book store. I always look for her books and am thrilled to see them on the shelf. Judy will be missed by so many, myself included. I am honored to have known her.*

Erin Fox - November 10, 2013 at 11:13 AM

RP

Working for the same surgeon for over 9 years, you meet a lot of patients. Those who come back month after month -year after year become friends. You learn "who" they "really" are. You meet their daughters, sisters, parents or friends and you find out that they are a retired lawyer or a politician or even an author of countless romance novels! Judy was special. She became a friend. We will all miss her smile and the fact that she never complained....(even to the extent that you had to dig out of her why she was in the office !!) Our thoughts and prayers are with Judy's daughters and sister that we all know and with the rest of her family and friends that will miss the incredible person that was Judy !

Robin Warner - North Texas Podiatric - November 12, 2013 at 02:50 PM