



## Julie Caton Spencer

December 18, 1948 - December 23, 2021

Julie Ann Caton Spencer, age 73, died unexpectedly of natural causes, at her home, December 23, 2021. She was born December 18, 1948, in Topeka to Russell W. Caton and Eunice T. Westerman Caton. She was a 1966 graduate of Hayden High School and received a degree in nursing from Stormont Vail School of Nursing in Topeka in 1971. Later she earned a masters degree in nursing from Ottawa University. In 1976 she married Darwin (Butch) Spencer. He preceded her in death in 2000.

Julie spent her entire career in nursing in Topeka, first working at Stormont Vail Hospital and then Saint Francis Hospital for several years at both hospitals, mainly in the surgery department. During her tenure at Stormont Vail, she frequently visited the pediatric ward and represented the hospital at outreach functions as Snorky the giant pink mouse mascot. She also taught continuing education classes to other nurses. Most recently she worked in Dr. Iliff's office and at Minor Med. Her hobbies and passion were genealogy and going to garage sales buying glass collectables.

Julie was preceded in death by her parents, husband and two infant brothers, John Joseph in 1954 and Joseph Gerald in 1956. She leaves behind four siblings: Jim Caton (Alice) of Rossville; Mary Lou Sherman (Steve) of Lyndon; Bill Caton (Peggy) of Auburn and Katie Caton of Olathe; and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and countless friends. She

loved her long list of canine companions, past and present, and left behind her buddy Jake.

Julie was a compassionate caregiver and spent her whole life caring for patients and people. She was selfless and always put other people first.

Julie was cremated.

Julie's Memorial Service will be 11 a.m. Saturday, April 2, 2022, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614. Prior to her service, the rosary will be prayed at 10:15 and family will greet friends from 10:30 until 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Attendees are encouraged to dress casually and wear their favorite sports team's apparel.

Inurnment will follow in Mount Calvary Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be made through the funeral home to any of the following:

Stonehouse Animal Hospital for the ongoing care of Jake (non-tax deductible)

SCARS – Shawnee County Animal Rescue Shelter.

Or a direct contribution to a Hospice Service of the donor's choice.

# Previous Events

## Rosary

APR 2. 10:15 AM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home  
2801 SW Urish Road  
Topeka, KS 66614  
(785) 272-7888  
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

## Visitation

APR 2. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home  
2801 SW Urish Road  
Topeka, KS 66614  
(785) 272-7888  
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

## Funeral Service

APR 2. 11:00 AM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home  
2801 SW Urish Road  
Topeka, KS 66614  
(785) 272-7888  
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

# Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Julie Caton Spencer



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - March 15, 2022 at 03:39 PM

CH

*I am humbled to see a photo of Julie and me in this beautiful video. I love her so much. It's true that there are no friends like old friends. How blessed I have been to have had Julie in my life for most of my time on this precious Earth.*

*Connie Holmes*

Connie Holmes - March 17, 2022 at 08:07 PM



*I am a cousin of Julie's Stretz family group, my Dad,s Mother Rosa Stretz Kempf , the tribute for Julie is just beautiful and a big thanks to all that put it together*

Bob Kempf - April 01, 2022 at 10:12 AM

NC

*I just learned of Julie's passing. So sorry to hear. We were family history buddies for many years. Have missed and will continue to miss sharing stories with her about our dogs and family history triumphs.*

*Nancy Caton - 2025*

Nancy E Caton - June 11, 2025 at 03:25 PM



“ *Julie Caton Spencer*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Julie Caton Spencer.*



March 17, 2022 at 08:17 PM



“ *I only saw Julie one day a year and that was our "baking" day in December at Jackie Howard's house. I always got the biggest hug & smile. Every year, we would have the best day, baking and laughing. Julie was a perfectionist and, I don't cook, so I would start talking to her as she was counting "cups of flour" for her famous pound cake. She would tell me in the kindest way, "Be Quiet." And she always brought us her wonderful portabella mushrooms for lunch. Julie, you were just a Ray of Light in so many peoples lives. I'm sure you're feeding all in Heaven. You are truly missed*

*Sue Bisel*

**Sue Bisel** - March 17, 2022 at 11:18 AM

LR

“ It was an honor and a privilege to work as an RN alongside Julie in surgery at Stormont Vail for 11 years. She was a great mentor as an instructor and demanded, not of the best of herself but the rest of us, in giving 100% of yourself for the best patient care possible. I can't ever remember her in a negative mood but always with a smile and friendly, optimistic spirit to share with all. I will miss you my friend. Say Hi for me to Dee Gooden when you catch up with her in heaven. Rest In Peace. 🙏🌸💖 . Linda Rohr

Linda Rohr - March 16, 2022 at 01:39 PM

JF

“ I was a patient of Dr. Laccheo's for many years, and Julie was my favorite nurse! She was always so warm, nurturing, and just as sweet as can be. She always took the time to make you feel comfortable and was such a gentle soul. My condolences to the family.

Jennifer Friess - March 16, 2022 at 01:37 PM



“ “You Are Loved And In Our Prayers” Comfort Throw was purchased for the family of Julie Caton Spencer.



March 12, 2022 at 12:45 PM

CS

“ I am also a nurse peer and friend of Julie's from Stormont Vail. I have know Julie for many years with Snorky and AORN. I traveled to many Nursing conventions with Julie and Eva. I was greatly saddened to hear of her passing which ended up a grapevine communication. I have tried to reach out to many of the older SVOR nurses that knew Julie. Difficulty with phone numbers so many years later- I ask any one who sees this to reach out to me. Caroline Shubert! I saw Julie as recent as last July when I took my daughter to Minor Med. Lots of promises to re-connect with each other and very sad not to have that opportunity now. You will not be forgotten Julie.

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**Caroline Shubert** - February 02, 2022 at 12:39 PM

KG

“ I knew Julie since 1979. As a young Ortho doc, I knew Julie as she worked in the surgery department at SV. Also she was my favorite brother in law's older sister. She was a great OR nurse always helpful and eager. As we both grew older we worked together at SF. I never heard a harsh word-from her. In her later years, she took the thankless job of scheduling nurse. That must have been a headache trying to make all those kind surgeons happy. She was a great model for young nurses today. Ken Gimple MD

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**Ken Gimple** - January 03, 2022 at 11:32 PM

KD

“ I saw the name Julie Spencer and kept thinking, "That name is so familiar." She was a nurse when I was a patient of Dr. Laccheo's. I just want to say I remember her so fondly. Whenever she came into the room, there was such warmth and peace. She once shared a story with me of the ends of her pigtails getting into the pot of ketchup being made... :) She was so personable and lovely.

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**Keely Dunham** - January 02, 2022 at 01:05 AM

RB

“ This photo was taken the day I became a graduate surgical tech. in January of 1979. Julie was my instructor. Very important life lessons and memories were forever formed during my employment at Stormont-Vail. I will never forget her.



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**Rob Briman** - January 01, 2022 at 10:02 PM

ES

“ Julie was one of my most beloved friends. We worked together many years in the operating room at Stormont. We did many Snorky programs together, she in the Snorky costume, and I the hands on facilitator of the children’s learning about what to expect during their hospital stay. Julie and I went on many trips together, attending national and international operating room nursing conventions, Renaissance fairs, movies, and concerts. Julie hated to fly, so many of those trips involved me driving, and Julie singing. Any of you who really knew Julie know she couldn’t carry a tune very well, and she always thanked me for letting her assault my ears. She said I was the only person who let her cut loose and belt it out in the car. Julie was one of the most unconditionally loving women I had the pleasure of knowing. She never saw a need that she didn’t meet. She weathered some terrible bereavements with her own brand of courage. I’m forever blessed and grateful to call her friend.

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**Eva Simecka** - December 29, 2021 at 10:28 AM

CS

*Eva I would love to talk to you! Tried to get your phone #. Caroline*

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**Caroline Shubert** - February 02, 2022 at 12:42 PM

LR

*Beautiful tribute Eva. I'm so sorry for your loss and aching heart.*

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**Linda Rohr** - March 16, 2022 at 01:42 PM

JR

*Beautifully said, Eva. ❤️*

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**jeanne Roth** - April 02, 2022 at 07:30 PM

MH

“ *Photo from Julie's 50th highschool reunion (Julie - 3rd from left in 2nd row)...*



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**Mike Hassur** - December 28, 2021 at 01:20 PM

MH

“ *Photo from Julie's 50th highschool reunion (Julie is 2nd from left)...*



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**Mike Hassur** - December 28, 2021 at 01:10 PM

MH

“ *Julie's highschool senior photo...*



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**Mike Hassur** - December 28, 2021 at 01:06 PM

JW

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**John Michael Wiseman** - December 28, 2021 at 12:01 PM

JS

“ I'm so sorry cousins on the loss of our sweet girl Julie. She came into my life when we met through Ancestry researching our Stretz lines in 2008. Connecting with her was one of my greatest blessings. Our first meeting was in 2009 when she picked me up at the air port, she was jumping up and down at the gate so excited. When we hugged we cried and both hung onto each other, the bond was there and will forever remain. We hosted 3 Stretz descendant reunions in Boonville, Missouri which are some of my most treasured memories because we were together. We collaborated on 2 Stretz reunion books, and without her wisdom in research we wouldn't have had the valuable information she was able to find in the Baden, Germany church archives. Any problems I needed advice on I would pick up the phone for "Julie's wisdom ", and she would give it to me straight with no sugarcoating anything. God knew I needed her in my life and I'm forever grateful for that. I will love her until I take my last breath. She gave me hope, friendship, and love- I couldn't ask for anything more than that. She was the older sister I never had, her last words on the phone to me were, love you.... well Julie, I love you more. Forever the 3 Stretz girls we remain. ❤️



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**Jodi A Schecter** - December 28, 2021 at 10:51 AM

KA

“ I keep posting this photo because she will always be this little girl in my life. I can't tell you how sorry I am, Jim, Bill, Susie, and, of course Mary Lou. What a kind soul. She and Terry were the best.



Kathleen - December 27, 2021 at 06:11 PM

PP

Jim, Mary Lou, Billy, and Susie, and all your families, I have had such a great time being on FB with Julie. We had so many great memories. We also got to work together for awhile at St. Francis. I can't believe she's gone. She will be missed dearly. You know Russ and Eunice were my Godparents and they were the best!! I'm so sorry for your loss!!

Patti Wilson Porubsky - December 27, 2021 at 07:48 PM

JG

I will miss this incredible woman. We met each other at Dillon's where she shopped and where I worked. Such a small world it is...we discovered she went to high school with my oldest sister Mary Lou! We continued to visit every time she was in and she introduced me to Molly. What a sweet dog! She was devastated when she lost her. I found her Jake and he became such a very important part of her life. Jake came from an abusive situation and I knew no one better than Julie to give him the life he deserved. It was such a shock to learn of her passing and I will miss her forever.

Jeannie Gish

Jeannie Gish - December 28, 2021 at 07:12 PM

DI

No idea 'but she spoke highly her religion —if gonna guess Julie was little girl far left—

diane - January 03, 2022 at 09:32 PM



*Omg have one those. Younger from Salina lined up same*

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**diane** - January 03, 2022 at 09:39 PM