



Jo Sykes Runnion

December 28, 1928 - February 26, 2009

Jo Sykes Runnion, age 80, died on February 26th at her home following a long illness. Jo grew up in southwestern Virginia. She was a graduate of Columbia Bible College in Columbia, SC, and the School of Nursing of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. She was honored by the School of Nursing and the Center for Historic Nursing Inquiry at UVA for compiling a newsletter for her classmates every year for over 50 years, and for inspiring a record attendance of 28 of her 36 classmates at their 45th homecoming. Her classmates are still close to this day.

Jo worked for Bristol Memorial Hospital in Bristol, TN as Pediatric Supervisor and later as acting Director of Nursing. She taught at Virginia Intermont College School of Nursing for several years. After marrying Newport native James B. Runnion, they moved to Newport to raise their family. She worked for 16 years as the first School Nurse for Cocke County Schools, where she was known for her organization skills, sense of humor, and passion for child and family health.

Jo was a faithful member of First Baptist Church for over 50 years. She was also involved in many health-related activities, including teaching classes for American Red Cross and volunteering with the American Cancer Society, and was a member of the Tenasse Club for many years.

She was appreciated for her masterful story-telling, her hospitality at the family campsite at Douglas Lake, her patience in teaching dozens of people to water-ski, her practical faith, her awe-inspiring organizational abilities, and her

determination not to complain about the harder parts of her life. She "adopted" the University of TN along with her husband Jim, and enjoyed 35 years of traveling with friends to UT football games near and far.

Her husband of 52 years, James B. Runnion, died in 2005. She is also pre-deceased by her brother Frank Sykes, parents, Clovis and Eula Osborne Sykes, parents-in-law, Charles S. Sr. and Maye Burnett Runnion, brother-in-law, Charles S. Runnion, Jr, nephew Chip McNabb Runnion, and special friend Maxine Painter.

She is survived by her daughters Vicki Maye Runnion of Louisville, KY, and Cindie Jo Runnion of Newport, sister and brother-in-law, Alma and Allen Rakes of Raleigh, NC, nephews, Philip Rakes (and Kim) of La Crosse, WI, and Steve Rakes of Raleigh, NC sister-in-law, Beth McNabb Runnion, of Newport, nephew Trey Runnion (and Joan) of Kansas City, MO, and "adopted daughter" Debbie Black of Knoxville.

She is also survived by her special friends Elza and Irene Painter, Dean Lillard, Dean and Carolyn Williams, of Newport, Thelma and Jim Brandon of Waterloo, IL, Betty Noell of Columbia, S.C., and Jo Garrett of Smithfield, VA.

The family will receive friends from 1:00-3:00 pm, Sunday, March 1, 2009 at First Baptist Church, with the service to follow at 3:00 pm, Dr. Rich Lloyd will officiate. A private committal service will be at Union Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be given to the Building Fund of First Baptist Church, 261 E. Broadway, Newport, TN 37821 or Smoky Mountain Hospice, 222 Heritage Blvd, Newport, TN 37821.

The family wants to express their profound gratitude to Irene Painter and Kay Hawk, her superb and loving caregivers, who made it possible for her to stay at home during her lengthy illness and to Smoky Mountain Hospice.

Tribute Wall



“ *Jo Sykes Runnion*

November 17, 2022 at 06:00 PM



“ *Cindy, Sorry to learn of your mom's passing. She is at rest with your dad now. Knowing that she is in a better place shall be a peace for you and your family. You will be in my thoughts and prayers.*

Kim Gregg - March 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Jo Sykes Runnion*

FRIENDS AT WILSON'S SAV-MOR PHARMACY - March 05, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mrs. Runnion was the school nurse when I first came to work the Cocke County Schools. She was a tireless, diligent lady who always put the students first. She was a pleasure to know and will be missed.*

Penny and Fletcher Ervin - March 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *With our love and prayers!*

Rob and Lisa Myers - March 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ Cindy: Audrey & I were out of town and was unable to attend your mothers funeral. Jo was a great woman and will be missed by all. Hope that you are doing OK. If you need me or Audrey, we are here for you. I still miss your Dad very much. The Kiwanis Club

DONALD & AUDREY JONES - March 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ Cindie and Vicki, Of course you have my sympathy in the loss your beloved mother. I wish that I had had the privilege of knowing her personally rather than only through phone conversations for many years. She was always very gracious and kind to me. You tw

Kim Baldwin - March 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ Hey Cindy, sorry to hear about your mom. I understand your feelings and hope you are ok? Randy

Randy Penland - March 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ Dear Vickie and Cindi: My sincere condolences on the passing of your wonderful mother. I recently lost my mother so I understand your loss. I am praying for you both at this time.

Regina Penland Faulkner - March 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ I'm so sorry for your lose

Linnie Denton - March 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

FS

“ *Cindie I really hated to hear about your mom. I know she was real sick and now she all well again no pain at all. I know your mom was your Best Friend. She was a terrific person, I loved to talk to her when she came in the store shopping. She was always*

Frances Huff Standifer - March 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ *To Jo's family, I am so happy that I could come to Jo's home and help take care of her hair when she called me. She was very happy to see me. I loved her very much. I,m very sorry I was out of town and didn't make it back to her service on Sunday. She w*

Pearl Bible - March 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ *Jo Sykes Runnion*

Ronnie &Josie Bullard - March 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TD

“ *Cindie & family - You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Tiffany Dover - March 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

VM

“ *Cindi: We share in the loss of your mother. You and Vickie were most fortunate to be blessed with the parents the Lord chose for you. If there is anything I can do for you now, or in the future, please don't hesitate to call me Vonn Ray*

Vonn Ray & Hazel Murrell - March 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GR

“ MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU AT THIS DIFFICULT TIME.

Greg & Paula Robertson - February 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GR

“ MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU AT THIS DIFFICULT TIME.

Greg & Paula Robertson - February 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Cindie and Vickie we are very sorry to hear of your loss. Mrs. Runnion was a special lady.

Mary Ann & Jay Chrisman - February 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ Sorry for your loss.

Linda Dawson - February 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ I AM SORRY FOR YOUR LOST YOUR ALL IN MY PRAYERS

TAMATHA MASONER HALL - February 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ Jo Sykes Runnion

Robert and Martha Pack - February 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ My condolences to the family. Jo was my cousin and I always enjoyed talking from time to time about our family with her. I am sure she will be greatly missed by all.

R. C. Sykes - February 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ As thoughts and prayers fly southward from the coast, know that I'm with you both in heart. ~ Ann

Ann - February 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ My deepest sympathies to you on the loss of your mother. She was a wonderful lady.

LINDA D CLARK - February 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ dear Vicki and all, My prayers are with you during this time of mourning the loss of your mother and celebrating her life. It is a privilege to be part of wider circle of love of care.

Tricia Lloyd-Sidle - February 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ Vicki & Cindy, My thoughts & prayers are with you during this difficult time. Ginni

Ginni Walker Foust - February 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM

HK

“ Jo Sykes Runnion

Hank & Louise (Sweeten) Kilgore - February 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Vicki and Cindie, My love and deepest sympathy to you - but heaven is nearer and dearer now...and what a Homegoing Jo is having now! We will all look forward to that Great Reunion when we see our Lord "face to face". Thank Travis for keeping me informed

Mary Lou Crutcher - February 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ Vicki and Cindie, Your mom was such a sweet person. She will be missed by many. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Sharon & Dexter Manning

Sharon Taylor-Manning - February 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TT

“ Cindie, MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU AT THIS DIFFICULT TIME.

Tom Tucker - February 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ Mrs. Runnion was always a kind and loving woman. She will always be special in my heart. Cindi, I am thinking of you. Jamie

Jamie Cody, Lindsey and Cody Naillon - February 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Cindie, Your mom was a school nurse when I was in school and remember her well. I hope you have many fond memories and the support of families and friends to sustain and comfort you during this difficult time.

Steve Strom - February 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Jo Sykes Runnion*

Wiley & Kate Morgan - February 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM