



# Jennie Leary Wallin

AUG 14, 1955 - APR 27, 2021



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MEMORIAL PARK  
Funeral Home & Cemetery

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# Jennie Leary Wallin

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**J**ennie Leary Wallin, 65, passed away on Tuesday, April 27th, 2021.

Fiercely loyal, loving and caring, Jennie was a remarkable woman. She valued every moment she lived and every life that crossed her path. Jennie had a strong faith. She believed in the power of love and saw goodness and beauty in everything and everyone she encountered. These qualities defined her life's path. And her contributions left the world a better place.

She was committed to the care, love and support of all living creatures. One of her favorite animals was her beloved horse, Henry. She and Henry participated in many Germantown horse shows and by all accounts, Jennie was a talented equestrian. Years later, during a trip to Sweden, Jennie had the opportunity to revisit her love of horseback riding when she was invited to join her cousin and ride horses bareback on the beach for the day. For Jennie, this memory connected two important countries in her life to her love of riding horses.

For years Jennie cared for homeless cats living in wooded areas across the city, going to great lengths each night to be sure they had food. She rescued many lost and injured dogs, as well, including her dog, Tootsie, who embodied the result of how gentleness and love could heal a broken spirit. Raccoons, rabbits, squirrels and birds - any animal who needed help, would find compassion and care with Jennie.

Jennie had the unique gift of making people feel valued and important. She was a thoughtful, kind, generous, compassionate and loving friend to everyone she met. She took the time to learn their stories, their struggles, their successes and the things of importance in their lives. Jennie had a way of connecting to people that made us all feel like we were the most important people in her life. Marsha Smith, Jennie's oldest friend, described Jennie as a person who "never had a mean thought in her head ...she could always see the bright side". Jennie celebrated everyone and everything and, through her own example, reminded us all of the importance of that celebration.



## Obituary

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Jennie was the daughter of Jean and James Leary. She was born in Memphis on August 14, 1955. With her older sister, Joan, Jennie grew up in a close, loving and caring family. Family meant the world to Jennie. And her family was as gracious and welcoming and supportive as Jennie was.

Jennie met her husband, Carl, the love of her life, in 1980 when they both worked for Sunbelt Airlines, a small regional airline. She worked as a station manager and he was a pilot for the airline. She was not an easy catch but he began to win her over when he invited her for a picnic by the red bridge at Memphis Botanic Garden. They were married in a beautiful, traditional Swedish ceremony in Djurshoms Kyrka, Sweden.

They lived in Stockholm for the first year of their marriage. While there, Jennie learned to speak Swedish in the language school at the University of Stockholm. Nils, her father-in-law, enjoyed supporting his new daughter-in-law's efforts by walking her to school each day. Her mother-in-law was equally encouraging and Jennie greatly valued the love and care they extended to her. Jennie and Carl returned to the U.S. and after a short stay in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, they settled back in Memphis where Jennie began her career in the travel industry.

Jennie's airline experience and her love of travel led her to her first job as a travel agent at Memphis Travel in the 100 North Main Building in 1986. She stayed there for 8 years and was a successful lead agent for corporate travel. In subsequent years she had similar successes at Mega World Travel and Regency Travel. And along the way, traveled throughout the United States and much of Europe.

In 1999, Jennie left her travel work to pursue a career that reflected her appreciation for the beauty in the world around her. Jennie was a gifted designer and had a rich and creative spirit. Those talents came together when she attended the Shelton-White School of Floral Design in Memphis. Following the completion of that program, she worked in sales and floral design for several years in and around Memphis. And in 2006, Jennie opened her own florist shop, The Flower Company, in Collierville, Tennessee. In her years as a floral designer she lent her talents to large floral installations for organizations and businesses across the city and was especially proud of the work she contributed to St. Jude's Children's Hospital and Rhodes College.

Jennie's design talents extended into her personal life where she and her husband, Carl, designed their own beautiful home. She took great joy in decorating for the holidays, gathering family and friends for small and large celebrations throughout the year. No one ever left Jennie and Carl's



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home feeling hungry. Nor did anyone lack for good conversation and creative entertainment. Going to the Wallin's home was always a memorable event.

The words written here cannot begin to do Jennie justice. She was a beautiful woman - a wonder to behold, so full of life and love. Jennie's physical presence in our lives will most certainly be missed, but her beautiful spirit will be with us forever.

Peace be still, Jennie.

Jennie is preceded in death by her parents, Jean and James Leary and her aunt, Joan Rubridge. She is survived by her loving husband, Carl Wallin; beloved sister, Joan Leary Peck (James A.); nephew, James Peck (Danya); great-niece, Lainey Nicole Peck; cousins, Edward Wise and Hall Danon (Cindy), niece, Therese Wallin; brother-in-law, Pehr Wallin; nephew, Palle Osterling (Asa); and 11 cousins in Sweden who are related by marriage.

A memorial service will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 18 at Memorial Park Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Memorial Park Cemetery.

Click the link below to view the webcasted service:

<https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/4JCMC7MMWT89QH8H>

In lieu of flowers, the family requests any donations in honor of Jennie be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital, organizations that support or provide care to animals or a charity of the donor's choosing.

To view the tribute slideshow click the link below:

<https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/TRHRGZBC9T7793XB>





# Events

**Jennie Leary Wallin**

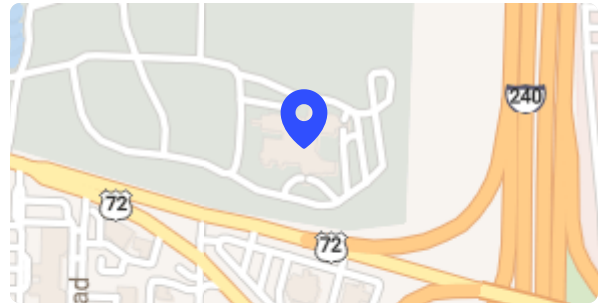
AUG 14, 1955 - APR 27, 2021

## Celebration of Life

 **Tuesday**, May 18, 2021

 10:00 AM cst

 **Memorial Park Funeral Home**  
5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis TN 38119





## Tribute Wall

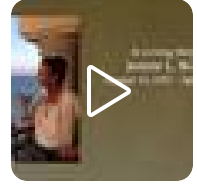
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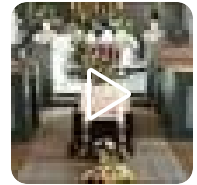
**Memorial Park Funeral Home And Cemetery** shared a **Video**.

May 14 at 7:50 AM



**Memorial Park Funeral Home And Cemetery** shared a **Click here to view the memorial service:**

May 1 at 12:41 PM





## Tribute Wall

**Jennie Leary Wallin**

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MS

**Marsha Smith** posted:

My Dearest Friend, Jennie, I have known Jennie almost since we were born. Our parents were life-long best friends, so Joan, Jennie and I naturally became best friends, or more accurately sisters. They were the sisters I never had and have remained so our entire lives. The memories I have with Jennie could fill a book: we shared birthdays, holidays, sleepovers, spent every summer vacation together as children, all three of us were in the same high school sorority, she & I went to the same college for a year, & what a year that was! She became a UTKnoxville Pi Beta Phi & a ATO little sister, & made many lifelong friends. We were so inseparable in college that we always double dated. We went to all the UT games, learned to camp out, tubed the rapids, snow skied, wore each others clothes & were always there to support each other when our worlds weren't spinning just right. Jennie has never had a mean thought in her head and she could always see the bright side to everything! She made me a much better person. Her father thought she was having too much fun at UTK and sent her to TCU to get her degree. Father knows best. Later, I was fortunate to be on another double date with Jennie when this wonderful man, Carl Wallin, proposed to her & she said YES! I have another lifetime of beautiful memories of my dear friend Jennie and husband Carl for 38yrs. Jennie was a very generous, kindhearted, loyal & loving friend, whom I will never stop missing or loving. Marsha Smith

May 2 at 7:42 PM

JO

**Janet Olson** May 17 at 12:07 PM

Jennie and I met working for the airlines. She taught me the Jenny way to take up for myself in her loving way. She always said to me always use a smile and sense of humor and sometimes being stern with a smile on my face. Jennie and I were written up a couple of times while at work. Having wheel chair races down the terminal, rolling to our gates while wearing roller skates, putting our beer outside to get cold when we were boarding our last flight. Because of Jennie she has always and always be in my heart and mind. Thank you Jennie for being in my life! Love you dear friend. Janet Anderson Olson

TL

**Tammy Lambdin** May 15 at 2:32 PM

Jennie and I met through animal rescue. Her heart was so tender & she did all she could to ensure that the bedraggled, injured & hungry had a happily ever after. Her can-do attitude was infectious. Her spirit will live on in many animal rescuers that she has supported over the years. We should all aspire to be like Jennie. Tammy Lambdin

CF

**Charlotte Foley** May 8 at 4:23 AM

Our hearts are broken. Jennie loved her family and friends with all her heart. We will miss her unconditional love, hugs and smiles. She was one of a kind. I feel blessed to have been her childhood friend for 64 years and will carry her spirit in my heart the rest of my days. We look forward to celebrating her life on the 18th. Charlotte Foley

MM

**Mike Molloy** May 4 at 11:08 AM



## Tribute Wall

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MS

My parents and Jennie's parents were best friends since Jim and Sam were in Washington. The two couples moved both their families to Memphis, then to Hayne Circle, and the dads practiced law together. Jennie was one of just a handful of girls amongst the 50 kids who grew up at the same time on Hayne Circle. She was a lifelong friend to me since we were born. When I was 4 or 5 years old, I'd wait on the Leary's back steps for Jennie to wake up so we could play. Her mother loved to tell that story. Then when my mom married her dad, she liked to say she'd gained four brothers with the Molloy boys. Carl was a great addition to our family bunch. Christmases were some good times with the Molloys and Learys. She was such a good person, never spoke bad about anyone. I'm glad I had her as a sister. Carl, I know you are going to miss her more than anyone can imagine. I'm thinking of you. Mike Molloy

LW

**Laura L Winfrey** May 3 at 6:52 AM

Marsha, thank you for sharing...



## Media

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Memorial Park Funeral Home And Cemetery shared a **Video**.

May 14 at 7:50 AM

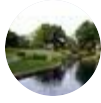




## Media

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Memorial Park Funeral Home And Cemetery shared a [Click here to view the memorial service:](#)

May 1 at 12:41 PM





## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Jennie by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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