

The Watcher
by Margaret Widdemer

She always leaned to watch for us
Anxious if we were late,
In winter by the window,
In summer by the gate.
And though we mocked her tenderly
Who had such foolish care,
The long way home would seem more safe,
Because she waited there.
Her thoughts were all so full of us,
She never could forget,
And so I think that where she is
She must be watching yet.
Waiting 'til we come home to her
Anxious if we are late
Watching from Heaven's window
Leaning from Heaven's gate.

Love,
Aaron, Aries, Arianna, Jashee, and Tysheanna

Acknowledgements

The family of Judith D. Rickenbacker wishes to express our deepest gratitude for the overwhelming love, support, and kindness shown to us during this difficult time. Your comforting words, heartfelt prayers, and thoughtful gestures have provided us with strength and solace as we navigate this profound loss.

As we reflect on Judy's life, we are comforted knowing that she was surrounded by such wonderful family and friends. Thank you for being there for us, for sharing in our grief, and for celebrating a life well-lived.

With heartfelt appreciation,
The Rickenbacker Family

IN LOVING
Memory of



Arrangements

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2025
10AM -WAKE & PREPAST
11AM- FUNERAL

IN TOUCH FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICES
5040 South Western Avenue
Chicago, IL 60609

Judith D.
RICKENBACKER

AUGUST 22, 1947 - AUGUST 3, 2025

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

Celebrating the Life of Judy

Judith Dean Rickenbacker, affectionately known as Judy, was born on August 22, 1947, in Orangeburg, South Carolina. She was the eldest daughter of Mary E. Rickenbacker and the late Wilber J. Rickenbacker.

Judy was raised in Bamberg, South Carolina. While growing up, she enjoyed attending church and worshipping with her family at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church. She accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized there. Judy was educated in the Bamberg County Public Schools. She was hardworking and creative, which manifested as a love of sewing. After graduating from high school in 1965, she attended Voorhees College for sewing. Once she attained her associate degree, she moved to Charleston, South Carolina, and ultimately Chicago, Illinois, in 1970 in search of new opportunities. For over 50 years, Judy shared her talent by sewing one-of-a-kind creations, which included suits, prom dresses, and wedding dresses. She was even featured in Time Magazine when she officially started her own sewing business through a local business incubator. Judy always made sure her clients looked and felt like a million bucks.

In addition to sewing, Judy explored other careers, including working in accounts payable at the Palmer House Hilton Hotel and as a lunchroom manager at Black Elementary School with the Chicago Public Schools. She retired from Chicago Public Schools in 2013. Regardless of the job opportunity, she loved serving others.

Judy was also full of joy, humor, and love. She was the proud mother of two sons and a doting grandma to her grandchildren. Judy could often be found telling stories and jokes or supporting her extended family and friends with words of wisdom and a good meal. Family and friends couldn't wait until the holiday season to experience her gumbo or to sit with her for a casual chat. Being in her presence was comforting and peaceful. She had a heart of gold that everyone cherished, cheerleading them in good times and wiping away tears in the tough times.

Judy entered eternal rest on Sunday, August 3, 2025.

Judy is preceded in death by her son, Terry; companion, Jonathan Coleman; father, Wilber J. Rickenbacker; sister, Jean Johnson; brother-in-law, John H. Johnson Sr.; niece, Angela Johnson; and nephew, John H Johnson Jr.

She leaves to cherish her memory: son Aaron; grandchildren, Aries, Arianna, Jashee, Tysheanna; mother, Mary Rickenbacker (Irmo, SC); best friends, Patricia Hayward and Inell Williams; and a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives, and friends, all of whom will miss her dearly.



Order of Service

WELCOME

SCRIPTURES & PRAYER
Pastor Aaron Kennedy

MUSICAL SELECTION
Brenda Clinton

RESOLUTIONS & REMARKS

OBITUARY
Alva Kennedy

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Brenda Brown

MUSICAL SELECTION
Brenda Clinton

EULOGY
Pastor Aaron Kennedy

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

FINAL VIEWING

BENEDICTION

