



Mrs. Janet Pierce Pennington

October 12, 1937 - March 17, 2026

Janet (Pierce) Pennington, 88, wife of William “Bill” Pennington, of the Keowee Key Community, passed away peacefully at her home on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, surrounded by her loving family.

Born in Darby, Pennsylvania, Jan was the daughter of the late Howard and Olive Childs Pierce. Her early years were spent in Boothwyn, Pennsylvania, where she met the love of her life, Bill, in the first grade. They dated in high school, married shortly thereafter and have remained inseparable ever since. Jan was a high school basketball player, head majorette of the Chichester High School Marching Band and had a spirit for adventure. She could even be spotted on an old reel of American Bandstand with Dick Clark, where she and her girlfriends would sneak in a road trip to the big city of Philadelphia for a chance to dance on the bandstand stage.

Bill and Jan raised their family in Wilmington, Delaware. They enjoyed summers boating on the Chesapeake Bay and weekends with cousins at Jan’s family cottage in Hazelmoor.

Jan and Bill moved with their three daughters to Apple Valley, Minnesota in 1976. She began a long career as a flight attendant with Delta (Northwest) Airlines, where she shared her warmth all over the world for over 33 years. After her daughters were grown, she and Bill moved to Wheaton, IL, where

they spent 14 years as members of Wheaton Bible Church, and enjoyed being a block away from their two oldest grandchildren.

In 1998, Jan and Bill made one of the best decisions of their lives, choosing to retire at Lake Keowee, South Carolina. Over the past 28 years of life in this wonderful community, they thrived on the water and shared their beautiful home with many family and friends. Their kids and grandkids loved to gather together for a week to swim, play dock tag, eat Jan's amazing homemade blueberry pies and go on boat rides, complete with tubing in tow. Jan loved to play games and was the most loving and joyful hostess, welcoming all who came to visit with open arms. She was a faithful member of Utica Baptist Church, where she and Bill attended weekly and he watched her love for singing in the choir. Jan was a selfless, classy lady who shared a contagious joy for living well. Her love for Jesus came through in her warm smile offered to everyone she met and we're certain her light is shining bright in heaven.

Jan and Bill have enjoyed 69 years of a beautiful marriage, or as we lovingly like to refer to it, "domestic tranquility." In addition to her husband, Jan is survived by her daughters and their families: Lori Pennington (Mike), Sue Ranck (Bob), and Joy Johnson (Jeff); sisters: Sandy Pierce (Tommy), and Connie Ryals; grandchildren: Christina Pennington (Cam), Becca Pennington (Chris), William Leeper (Taylor), Casey Smith (Reed), Jack Leeper, Carly Johnson, Cameron Johnson and Amy Scoggins (Chris); and great-grandchildren: Kaleb, Ethan, Ian, Finn, Ellie, and Remi.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Utica Baptist Church, 4056 Wells Hwy, Seneca, SC 29678, or by visiting the following link <https://www.uticabaptist.com/giving>

A memorial service will be held at 3:00 PM on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at Utica Baptist Church.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR 11. 3:00 PM (ET)

Utica Baptist Church
4056 Wells Hwy
Seneca , SC 29678

Tribute Wall

JG

“ Bill and Jan were our neighbors in Apple Valley Mn many years before South Carolina. We didn't know each other although their daughter was a diver on the swim team I managed. Lo and behold we show up across the street from each other in 1997. We've been friends for 28 29 yrs. Such a sweet unassuming lady who made great spaghetti.

jim griffin - April 08 at 10:48 AM

LG

“ Jan was our great friend and the best next door neighbor we've ever had. We'll miss all of those Mexican dinner adventures and the stops at the ice cream shop that always followed. Always a good time. Always a load of laughs. We'll miss her.

Lee and Susan Gordon - April 06 at 03:45 PM

JH

“ Jennifer, Deb & Terri (and hubs) purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Mrs. Janet Pierce Pennington.



Jennifer, Deb & Terri (and hubs) - April 06 at 02:43 PM



“ Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Mrs. Janet Pierce Pennington.



March 26 at 08:48 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Janet Pierce Pennington.

March 26 at 08:48 AM



“ Even before we met 28 years ago, Jan and I were destined to meet. When she and Bill moved in the year after us and we began comparing notes, we found that we had both lived in Apple Valley, MN; our daughters swam at the same H.S.; and she worked for Northwest Airlines at the same time as my husband... although both swore they had never met before! Such coincidences began our bond along with some crazy decorating projects that resulted in a lot of laughter. My fondest memory was Jan proudly showing me her random cuttings that she had planted over the years and ALWAYS grew into beautiful plants with profuse flowers. I swear even a stick jammed into the ground grew in her garden! And, she always had a sense of surprise and wonderment when it bloomed. I picture her landscaping Heaven with wild flowers. We will miss her joy of life!

Gretchen Griffin - March 22 at 01:26 PM



“ We couldn't have asked for a more wonderful next-door neighbor. Jan was always ready with a smile or a hug to brighten our day. The doorbell would ring and Jan would be there with a cookie that she had just baked or a flower from her garden. We loved sharing our garden produce with her. She was always sitting on her porch inviting us to come over for a chat to share news about her family. We sometimes even gossiped about what was going on in the neighborhood! She would often ask us over see some treasure that she had made or purchased. Bill would heal our cuts and bruises and Jan would heal our souls! We will miss her dearly. Georg and Julie Lamp

Julie Lamp - March 20 at 11:01 AM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Mrs. Janet Pierce Pennington.*



March 20 at 10:18 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Janet Pierce Pennington.

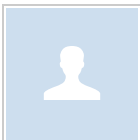
March 20 at 10:18 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Janet Pierce Pennington.*



March 20 at 09:03 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Janet Pierce Pennington.

March 20 at 09:03 AM

DM

“ Jan and Bill were two of the very first people we met when we came to Keowee Key. We purchased the house that was originally owned by Bill’s former boss and Jan was so kind and complimentary of what we had done to update the house. Jan embraced me and I started to call her “ma” because she was like a mother to me. I’ll never forget when we went to an event and showed up wearing the same jacket! She was a beautiful lady and I know her light will continue to shine in heaven!



Debbie Maupin - March 20 at 07:52 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Janet Pierce Pennington.



March 19 at 09:53 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Janet Pierce Pennington.

March 19 at 09:53 PM

BD

“ One of my first memories of Jan (we had just started building) Spinnaker Cove and South Point were having the Olympic Games parade. Well guess who was leading the parade in her drum majorette uniform and twirling her baton, strutting her stuff? Yep, you guessed it! JAN! And I know she's in her majorette uniform with her baton a twirling leading the parade in heaven!!! I loved her spunk along with all the other attributes of Jan! I thought I like her spirit and enthusiasm! I miss her. Love, Barb

Barbara Druffel - March 19 at 04:16 PM

WB

“ Wayne M Brandt purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Janet Pierce Pennington.



Wayne M Brandt - March 19 at 03:57 PM

KB

“ Jan and Bill have been cheerleaders for our family. We will miss Jan while we celebrate her well-lived life, and we'll pray the huge hole in Bill's heart is filled with only the best memories.

Kevin Brock - March 19 at 01:03 PM

LD

“ We have the good fortune to have the Penningtons for neighbor for the last 20 years. My first recollection of Jan is that big smile. I have no recollection of her without it. She was a gracious, fun loving lady. I am confident that like all good mothers, she is in heaven.

Larry Druffel - March 19 at 11:41 AM

D&

“ Donald &. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mrs. Janet Pierce Pennington.



Donald &. - March 19 at 11:38 AM

D&

“ Donald &. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Janet Pierce Pennington.

Donald &. - March 19 at 11:38 AM

KA

“ Kathy Addis lit a candle in memory of Janet Pennington



Kathy Addis - March 19 at 09:31 AM

OM

“ So sorry for your loss. Jan was a precious soul. I loved Jan. Praying for the family to get through this and the days ahead.

Ovaline Medlin - March 19 at 08:43 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mrs. Janet Pierce Pennington.*



March 19 at 08:08 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Janet Pierce Pennington.*



March 19 at 07:10 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Janet Pierce Pennington.*

March 19 at 07:10 AM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Mrs. Janet Pierce Pennington.*



March 19 at 01:35 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Janet Pierce Pennington.*

March 19 at 01:35 AM

KR

“ I can't express how much this beautiful lady meant to me. That smile and precious hug Jan gave me every time I saw her will always be remembered. She and Bill were such a Godly example of a Christian marriage and showing their love for each other. I love you Jan and look forward to seeing you again

Kathy Rusk - March 18 at 06:10 PM

KR

“ Kathy Rusk lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Janet Pierce Pennington



Kathy Rusk - March 18 at 06:05 PM

JR

“ Jan and Bill looked after me as one if their own in Wheaton. I will forever be grateful to love and be loved by them. Rest in Paradise, Jan. Heaven gained an amazing angel.

Jen Ruffolo

Jen Ruffolo - March 18 at 06:00 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Heather Simpson - March 18 at 05:54 PM

CR

“ I will miss you and your positive attitude and kind smile. You have been a wonderful daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, aunt and friend to many. No one could be a greater role model. There will be a giant void in my life but I know for sure that you are up in heaven with our parents and other loved ones that have passed. You were always such an inspiration and as my big sister you always made me proud. Thank you for all you taught me about living a good life. Your Christian faith was so visible each and every day. You never spoke negatively about anything or anyone and never complained. My children loved you too and always said how classy you were. Rest in peace.
Your loving sister, Connie.

Connie Ryals - March 18 at 05:48 PM

RT

“ Randy Tilson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Janet Pierce Pennington



Randy Tilson - March 18 at 04:38 PM

SG

Our deepest sympathy to you, Bill, and your family. We have made a loving contribution to the Utica Baptist Church Children's Camp Scholarship fund in memory of your beautiful wife, Jan. Our love and sympathy, Dave and Suzanne Grant.

Suzanne M Grant - March 20 at 04:27 PM

CH

Jan was such a kind, cheerful, and thoughtful person. Whenever we visited Spinnaker, she always showed such genuine care for my kids and me, and that kindness meant so much. She had a warmth about her that made people feel seen and welcomed. The love and care she and Bill shared were a beautiful example for everyone. I will remember her fondly!

Colleen Hergott - March 28 at 05:48 PM