



## Mrs. Judy Ray Sams

February 4, 1941 - October 22, 2021

Judy Ray Sams, 80, wife of Steve O'Neal Sams, Sr., of 1415 N. Woodbury Road, Seneca, passed away Friday, October 22, 2021, at her home.

A native of Columbia, SC, Mrs. Sams was the daughter of the late Ray William and Mildred Hall Welch. She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and of the Baptist faith. Mr. and Mrs. Sams owned and operated Lucky Strike in Seneca.

Mrs. Sams is survived by her son: Stephen Sams of Seneca, SC; daughter: Stephanie S. Page (Martin) of West Union, SC; brother: Ray W. Welch II (Judy) of Easley, SC; sisters: Lynn Hooper of Greenville, SC and Joyce Welch McCarson (Lt. Col USA Ret. Michael) of Chapin, SC; grandchildren: Jonathan R. Sams (Kayla), Anna Katherine Page, Mary Beth Williamson (Isaac) and Jennifer Parham-Mocello (Brian); and great-grandchildren: Tess Sams and Jacob Sams.

Funeral services will be conducted at 11:00 AM, Sunday, October 24, 2021, at Davenport Funeral Home Chapel.

The family will receive friends from 10:00-11:00 AM, Sunday, prior to the service, at Davenport Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made Prisma Health Oconee Hospice of the Foothills, Cottingham Hospice House, Attn: Foundation Office, 298 Memorial Drive, Seneca, SC 29672.

The family is at the home.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **24**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Davenport Funeral Home  
311 S Highway 11  
West Union, SC 29696  
(864) 638-3611  
davenportfhome@gmail.com  
<https://www.davenportfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

OCT **24**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Davenport Funeral Home  
311 S Highway 11  
West Union, SC 29696  
(864) 638-3611  
davenportfhome@gmail.com  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Judy Ray Sams*

January 28, 2023 at 01:03 PM



“ *Stephanie and family, we were so sad to learn of Judy's death. It has been years since our paths have crossed but I have fond memories of the years we were next door neighbors in Hanover Hills. May the many memories you have of your loved one comfort you in the days and weeks ahead.*

*Joyce & Jerry Christenbury*

**Joyce Christenbury** - October 27, 2021 at 09:50 PM



“ *Dear Steve and Family, I am so sorry for your loss. I didn't get to know Judy very well but you and I grew up in the same neighborhood. My condolences to you and the family. Always keep the memories you've made and cherish them always. Jan Elkins Hart*



**Janice Elkins Hart** - October 26, 2021 at 01:45 AM



“ *Dear Steve and family, I am so sorry of the passing of Judy, she was a very sweet and happy lady that was pleasant to be in the midst of always keeping every one upbeat, I know you will miss her to the utmost. You have my deepest sympathy and prayers. Take care of yourself and remember God is always there as well as all of your good friends. Many blessings to you, your friend Reg Head.*

**Lesley R Head** - October 25, 2021 at 11:15 AM

FB

“ Frankie Burrell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Judy Ray Sams



Frankie Burrell - October 25, 2021 at 03:49 AM

PH

“ I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this sad time.



Patricia Holcombe - October 24, 2021 at 11:09 PM

RW

“ Stephanie, I am so sorry to hear about your Mom. Give my regards to your Dad. Ed Wallace

Ronald Ed Wallace - October 24, 2021 at 04:08 PM

JA

“ Jerry And Cheryl Allmon lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Judy Ray Sams



jerry and cheryl allmon - October 24, 2021 at 12:35 PM

GM

“ Gloria Moore lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Judy Ray Sams



Gloria Moore - October 24, 2021 at 11:39 AM

LA

“ Judy was a wonderful lady and always made everyone feel welcome. So sorry for your loss. She will be greatly missed. The LC Alexanders

LC/Mary Alexander - October 23, 2021 at 11:33 PM

VR

“ Such a sweet and funny lady! She never failed to ask about all of my Rochester family everytime I saw her. My brother David worked for your parents years ago at the first Lucky Strike when you and Jodi were just little bits. Miss Judy will be missed by many people. Lots of prayers for your family. Vicki Rochester

vicki Rochester - October 23, 2021 at 10:08 PM



“ Fall Fantasia was purchased for the family of Mrs. Judy Ray Sams.



October 23, 2021 at 06:37 PM

DF

“ I ADORED JUDY! WHEN I WAS 14 YRS OLD, JUDY GAVE ME MY FIRST JOB, WAITRESSING AT HER LUCKY STRIKE RESTAURANT, OVER IN OCONEE SQUARE SHOPPING CENTER. SHE TAUGHT ME SO MUCH, ESPECIALLY HOW TO SMILE AND TREAT CUSTOMERS. SHE CONTINUED TO BE A LIFE LONG FRIEND, AND WAS AN AMAZING FRIEND TO MY LATE FATHER. SHE WILL BE MISSED. MY CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY.

DIANA FEY

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DIANA FEY - October 23, 2021 at 05:15 PM

“ My world is sad today because my beautiful "sister-cousin" is gone after a long and courageous battle. She was a warrior--strong-willed and ready to meet all of Life's challenges.

Though I am a few years younger, I always looked up to Judi. She taught me to play a "mean" piano boggie and other songs--some that I still play today. I remember how she would almost go into a trance and bang out those tunes! Although I had very little singing talent, Judi convinced me that I was great, and she took me to a Greenville radio station in 1956 to try out for the local talent show. Needless to say, I did not make it, but Judi convinced me it was their loss! (And, I believed her!) Judi was my life long cheerleader. No matter what I tried to do, she would always say, "You can do that!" She helped instill in me a confidence that keeps me going today.

I always admired the closeness of my Greenville Welch cousins. They lived in a tiny little house in a mill village, but there was always room for a younger cousin to come for summer visits. I especially enjoyed seeing the care they provided for their aging parents. Because I only had brothers, I loved seeing the attentive interaction between the siblings--especially the sisters. I shared this feeling with them several years ago, and to my delight, they decided to adopt me--so I became their sister-cousin.

As first cousins, living in different parts of South Carolina, our lives took separate paths as we grew up, but everytime we had a chance to meet up at family gatherings, it was as if no time had passed. She loved to laugh, and her laughter was infectious.

In addition to her loving family, Judi was blessed with many, many friends. Her "Lucky Strike" Family influenced many decisions that she and Steve made over the years, and they helped her through many dark days. Judi will be sorely missed by so many of us. Judi faced many hardships during her life--health problems, financial issues, and the devastating loss of her son, Gavin. But, she continued to rise again and again, and to be an inspiration to all of her friends and family. This Loving attitude extends into today, as the siblings rally now to face these difficult days ahead, but they know that Judi Lives forever in the precious memories we all share

**Sherry Hall Jaco** - October 23, 2021 at 03:51 PM

SR

“ *Judy was one strong ,outgoing lady. She will be missed dearly.  
The Roach family*

**Shelby Thompson Roach** - October 23, 2021 at 09:11 AM

SR

“ *Shelby Thompson Roach lit a candle in  
memory of Mrs. Judy Ray Sams*



**Shelby Thompson Roach** - October 23, 2021 at 09:09 AM

LR

“ *Louise Rochester lit a candle in memory of  
Mrs. Judy Ray Sams*



**Louise Rochester** - October 23, 2021 at 01:36 AM

FC

“ *Frieda Cobb lit a candle in memory of Mrs.  
Judy Ray Sams*



**Frieda Cobb** - October 22, 2021 at 10:17 PM



“ Wayne F Barton lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Judy Ray Sams



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Wayne F Barton - October 22, 2021 at 09:24 PM



“ Sharing your sorrow amd memories.

Charles and Joanne Ponder



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Charles and Joanne Ponder - October 22, 2021 at 08:35 PM



“ Charles And Joanne Ponder lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Judy Ray Sams



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Charles and Joanne Ponder - October 22, 2021 at 08:29 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Mrs. Judy Ray Sams.



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October 22, 2021 at 07:23 PM

TS

“ Terry & Kay Sanders lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Judy Ray Sams



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**Terry & Kay Sanders** - October 22, 2021 at 06:54 PM

JB

“ Jimmy And Jeannie Barker lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Judy Ray Sams



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**Jimmy and Jeannie Barker** - October 22, 2021 at 06:29 PM

RB

“ Renee Burkett Butts lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Judy Ray Sams



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**Renee Burkett Butts** - October 22, 2021 at 05:48 PM