



Jennie Lee Adams

January 11, 1929 - August 6, 2015

Jennie Lee Adams, born Jan. 11, 1929, in Miami, Fla., to Margaret Allen and John Lee Adams, left her earthly body on Aug. 6, 2015.

Jennie began her career in social work and counseling after graduating in 1951 from Florida State University, in the first class of undergraduate social work as well as the first coed class. She completed her master's in social work from the University of Tennessee in 1956. In 1961-62, Jennie continued her education taking doctoral courses in clinical psychology at Vanderbilt University. She mentored and inspired many through a variety of faculty appointments. She taught at Peabody College, Florida Mental Health Institute Research and Training Center, UT School of Social Work, Vanderbilt School of Nursing, and Meharry Medical College.

Jennie was a pioneer for social workers throughout her career creating the first adolescent therapy group in the state at the Nashville Mental Health Center. She participated in several NIH projects including a multi-county Mental Health Center. She served as a consultant on a variety of mental health projects in Tenn., Fla., Ga., Ala., Texas and NY. Jennie impacted many lives through her private practices in Tarpon Springs, Fla., Clearwater, Fla., Tullahoma, Tenn. and Franklin, Tenn. Jennie opened the first private psychotherapy practice owned by a woman in the state of Tennessee. Jennie was a bridge builder in forging interdisciplinary collaboration and received the

NASW Lifetime Achievement in Social Work award from the Tennessee Chapter in 1990. She was also the founding director as well as past president and board member for the Nashville Psychotherapy Institute.

Jennie's creativity and passion has been the inspiration for a variety of projects impacting the lives of many. The Over-The-Hill-Gang was one example, where volunteers came together to pool resources and experience to offer pro bono services to those in need. There were many causes close to Jennie's heart, including Park Center, Bonaparte's Retreat, Crossroads Campus, Emily's List, Room In The Inn and The League of Women Voters. She is remembered for encouraging others to serve and give back.

Jennie leaves a large family of friends that includes Debbie High and Ana Enriquez. Her beloved dog, Bo, visited her in the hospital on her last day. Furry friends were a constant in her life. Along with many precious friends, she was predeceased by her parents and brother, John Robert Adams (Gladys). Jennie was a fun, loving aunt to nieces, Janet Tucker (Scott) and Melanie Adams (Bruce Theobald), and nephew, Mark Adams. Grandnieces include Samantha Shero (Dan), Alyssa Norris (Stephen), and grandnephews, Nash Tucker and Jack Gentry.

Her family asks that you honor Jennie by treating others with the compassion and love she showed to all people and consider 'taking the leap' in your own life to serve others. A celebration of her life is planned for the near future. Arrangements are pending.

Tribute Wall



“ *Jennie Lee Adams*

October 14, 2022 at 08:02 PM



“ *To the girl who set a sailor on course for college and introduced him to Archie & Mehitable.\” She was a minstay in my life after Korea. A very good friend*

Charles & Carol Fuss - October 11, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *You are a mentor, therapist, friend and sister who taught me much. I am so grateful I met you. You will always be in my heart and soul. In my heart, the best I know is you left this world loved dearly and in peace. THANK YOU for all you gave everyone. What an angel !
xoxooo*

Sally Reber - August 17, 2015 at 07:07 AM



“ *Melanie- I understand how difficult this must be for you and your family. I am praying for God to sustain all of you at this time. So sorry for your loss.*

Donna L. Miller - August 14, 2015 at 11:23 AM

MA

“ It was with sadness I read of Jennie's passing. I admired her greatly. She was an inspiration to me. At a period of time when I worked in Franklin, she was very important to me both personally and professionally. Jennie's life truly had meaning and purpose. She touched many lives---probably even more than she realized.

Martha Ainsworth - August 14, 2015 at 02:04 AM

SP

“ Dearest Jennie helped guide me through many years...She was my "touchstone".....Much love shared by her, and many wonderful memories of her will help me the rest of my life. Thank you, Jennie.

Sara Posthuma - August 13, 2015 at 09:30 PM

SB

“ What a wonderful and special spirit was housed in Jennie. She was a wonderful friend. It is impossible to put into words all the qualities that made her a unique human being. She was always positive, but more than that she was willing to encourage and uplift any one she met. I will miss her so very, very much. Love to her family. Susan Gentry Bonds

Susan Gentry Bonds - August 13, 2015 at 07:45 PM

BS

“ Although we personally only met you once in your "enchanted cottage", we always heard of your wisdom and goodness through our daughter Betsy who so enjoyed her years of friendship with you. For that we thank you. Enjoy your reward with the Source of all Wisdom.

Bob and Nancy Shannon - August 12, 2015 at 08:04 PM

KF

“ *Melanie, What a wonderful lady your Aunt was! So sorry for your loss. May Jesus the healer and comforter be with you now in this time of loss! She is in heaven tonight singing with Bill! Peace Be With You! Love, Kristy*

Kristy Finney - August 12, 2015 at 05:33 AM

CW

“ *Lovely, lovely tribute to a very special person who touched the lives of so many and really made a difference. Thank you.*

Cynthia White - August 12, 2015 at 03:25 AM

MF

“ *Good-by good friend and wise mentor - you are missed and forever remembered.*

Mary Faulkner - August 12, 2015 at 03:08 AM