



Jennie Lynn Vought Baker

July 27, 1958 - August 14, 2020

Please go to: www.mdumc.org/jenniebaker on Friday, August 21, 2020 at 2:00 PM for Live Streaming Services.

Jennie Lynn Vought Baker was born on July 27th, 1958 at Peekskill General Hospital in Peekskill, New York on the banks of the Hudson river. She was named after her paternal great grandmother, Jennie B. Williams Vought. Jennie's paternal ancestors were Dutch whaleboat captains who immigrated from Holland in the 1680's. Jennie's family tree boasts an aide to General Pierre Van Cortland who served under the command of General George Washington in the Revolutionary War. Her mother, Mary Joy Hill Vought, was born on a cotton farm in Ellison Ridge, Mississippi. The Hill family became Methodist after being kicked out of the Baptist Church for attending a Pentecostal Tent Revival.

During Jennie's early years, her Uncle John called her a precocious child, and at the age of two, she announced to friends and strangers alike that she was "precocious." And, she was.

At the age of four she was struck with Guillain-Barre syndrome, a disease similar to polio, which paralyzed her from the waist down. During her illness, her mother spent time teaching her to read, and when she enrolled in kindergarten she was far ahead of her peers. She showed intense determination as she had to teach herself to walk and climb stairs again. An early sign of the fighter she would become.

In 1965 the family relocated to Houston and Jennie attended Meadowood Elementary School and began forming lifelong friendships from the Spring Branch area. She was one of the early graduating classes of Stratford High School in 1976. From the age of 14, the very determined teen began lying about her age to become gainfully employed at multiple businesses; The Holiday Inn, Princes Hamburgers, and most notably she created her own company and contracted with the Forest Club to provide valet parking services. Jennie attended Texas Tech University where she graduated on The Dean's List in 3 ½ years with a degree in marketing. During her college years she was a proud and active member of Zeta Tau Alpha women's fraternity and was honored as a "Maid of Cotton" finalist at the University. After graduating in December of 1979, she turned down a position with former Texas Governor John Connally's presidential campaign to begin her long and accomplished career at Conoco.

With Conoco she moved extensively throughout the country. She moved from Tulsa, back to Houston, Cheyenne, back to Houston, Chattanooga, Atlanta, then finally back to Houston. In her 29-year career she worked as executive assistant to the CEO, in pipeline business analysis and budgeting, natural gas and gas liquids, refined product supply and trading, and in retail and wholesale marketing.

She was the first recipient of the Conoco Global "Valuing All People" award. This corporate-wide award recognized the employee that most embraced diversity, practiced inclusion and valued the opinions and thoughts of others. This award embodies everything Jennie stands for. She truly loved all God's people.

She went on her first date with fellow employee Mike Baker ten years after they met. He invited her on the romantic escapade of selecting a new rug for his living room. Once it became clear to the couple that they would marry, they immediately began fierce negotiations on how many children they would have. In true trader form Jennie began the bargaining at six. Mike finally agreed she could have as many children as she wanted until he turned 40. Mike and

Jennie proceeded to have three children, Marcie, Leslie and Graham, in less than three years. Jennie never backed down from a challenge.

After ConocoPhillips she worked at Western Refining integrating their new acquisition of Giant Refining into their corporate culture. She also worked with Shell Oil as an independent consultant on their worldwide IT projects. Much of what she did in these two roles was “Change Management,” which is focused on the people side of large corporate change initiatives. Another indicator of her passion for “valuing all people.”

Jennie was the dedicated mother to Marcie, Leslie and Graham first and foremost. She treasured her children more than anything else and cherished her years with them. She considered it important to allow her children to follow their dreams, and not her dreams. She wanted them to commit to the things they loved and to see their goals through. The pride she had in them was evident every time she spoke of them. Their accomplishments were wholly embraced by Jennie.

Jennie started volunteering for the Stratford playhouse in 2006. She served on the scholarship committee and as the booster club president for two years. Her family recalls that she loved to work with costumes, particularly shoes, and often had them lined up in the house to ready them for painting and dyeing. She was so committed to the organization that she stayed involved even after Graham’s graduation, continuing to help with scholarship review and costumes. She called Steel Pier her favorite production because it boasted all 3 Baker kids on stage at the same time. Many of her lifelong and dearest friends came from her SHS playhouse experiences, and she faithfully followed the post SHS endeavors of several playhouse graduates.

Jennie joined the Spring Branch Education Foundation board in 2008, an organization close to her heart as a Spring Branch ISD graduate, and the mother of three graduates. She never turned down the opportunity to lead a committee. As chair of the planning and admin-development committee, she helped review and update PTA bylaws. As gala chairs, she and Mike

spearheaded the planning of an impressively grand and profitable event. She also served as chair of the board for two years. She supported her fellow board members and took the time to mentor them when they took over new positions. The impact she had on SBEF in her 12 years of service was truly remarkable.

Jennie dedicated many hours to the Houston Alumnae Panhellenic Association and was passionate about the work she did there. Most notably, she co-chaired the 2019 HAPA Scholarship Luncheon, which was a tremendous success, and raised thousands of dollars for Harris County undergraduates. The theme of the luncheon was Women of Purpose, which speaks to everything that Jennie supports and stands for. Jennie used her savvy and creativity to make the theme and décor affordable yet stunning. She used her influence in the community and her persuasiveness to recruit prestigious speakers. She recruited women from all areas of her life to significantly increase interest and attendance, which also increased revenues. In the midst of working on this phenomenal project, Jennie's illness returned. She battled an infection and a weakened immune system but did not allow it to weaken her efforts or her resolve. She was steadfast, never wavering, and her vision was seen to its beautiful completion.

Among Jennie's many commitments to her community, was her devotion to Memorial Drive United Methodist Church, where she was a loyal member since childhood. Parishioners could always find Jennie helping with Vacation Bible School, teaching Sunday school, participating in multiple committees, and serving on the Board of Stewards.

Everyone that met Jennie would tell you that making and keeping relationships and friendships was one of her many passions. She always came up with a reason to entertain, to celebrate someone or something. Rare was the occasion that the Baker home was empty of a celebrating crowd. Her famous in-law-outlaw holiday event carried with it the tradition of celebration and was worthy of any grand event or coveted invitation in the Houston area. Jennie was kind and self-sacrificing, a generous friend with a beautiful soul.

She had the longest hug and the warmest smile. She had a soft front, but behind that front was a will of steel. She was an optimist, even in the darkest days of her illness, she never gave up hope, she never stopped fighting, she kept her dignity.

Jennie is survived by her husband of 29 years, Michael Baker and her beloved children, Marcie, Leslie and Graham, by her parents, Bob and Mary Joy Vought, her sister Roxie Vought Allen (Mike), her brother Tom Vought, and her nephews; Christian, Russell, and Deontae. Jennie left a lasting impression on those whose lives she touched, and she will be missed.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to the Spring Branch Education Foundation Funds for the Future Endowment or the Memorial Drive United Methodist Church Caring Forever Foundation.

A private memorial service will be held Friday, August 21, 2020 at 2:00pm at Memorial Drive Methodist Church. The celebration will be live streamed, please check back to this website for the live streaming link.

Tribute Wall



“ *Jennie Lynn Vought Baker*

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Jennie Lynn Vought Baker*

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *Jennie Lynn Vought Baker*

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *Jennie Lynn Vought Baker*

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM



“ *Jennie was a caring, warm and enthusiastic person who never knew a stranger. The minute you meet her, she became your friend. The Davis family in heartfelt sympathy for the Baker's will miss Jennie terribly. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during your time of grief.*

Paula Davis

Paula L. Davis - September 13, 2020 at 06:28 PM

VT

“ *The Taylor family sends their condolences to the Baker family. Jennie was a very kind and gracious person. She had the unique ability to always make you feel special. She was generous with her time and her attention to others. We will miss her dearly.*

Vallie Taylor - September 06, 2020 at 07:27 PM

TF

“ *Jennie was such a warm, friendly and caring person. She welcomed us openly and always had a smile on her face. We were deeply saddened when we heard of her passing. We send our deepest condolences and blessings to Mike, Marcie, Leslie, Graham, Bob, Mary Joy, Roxie, Mike, Tom, Christian, Russell, and Deontae.*

*You are in our thoughts and prayers,
Chris, Liz and Jacob Miller*

The Miller Family - August 22, 2020 at 09:21 PM

KS

The most vivid memory I have of Jennie was right after I had my own prophylactic double mastectomy and I was sitting beside her at a church service where she told me about her breast cancer. My family loves her family.

Karen Smith - August 28, 2020 at 12:03 PM

RA

“ It is so tough to say goodbye. In my personal struggle with cancer Jennie opened her home and her heart to us. I remember getting in late to her home from a long drive from Mississippi and a note welcoming us there. She was so sensitive to the others need. During my treatment at md Anderson, her visits brought me life and encouragement. As she bubbled into my hospital room, thoughts of chemo and other pressing issues took the back seat as we talked played cards or even trivial pursuit.

Every family reunion, Christmas, thanksgiving or other family event she was in the kitchen grocery store run or finishing some details to make the family feel special and valued.

After I graduated from college and was not able to find a job, she once again opened her house in Atlanta and heart. She openly discussed her career responsibilities and she encouraged me with helpful interviewing tips. I drove her ford bronco while there and ended up buying one after I got a job

The last time I saw her while I was in Houston for work I was unsure if I should come by her house. As always she welcomed Me there. I wanted to encourage her but she encouraged me more.

I will miss her so much. She touched so many lives. Praying for y'all

Love y'all. Ricky

ralph arnold - August 21, 2020 at 05:59 PM

DT

“ Jennie was a remarkably kind, caring, smart, bubbly, fun person and we are blessed to have known her. Her smiling face and warm spirit will be so missed but long remembered in our community. We can just imagine Heaven's rejoicing to have such a beautiful new angel in their midst.

Donna and Michael Treu - August 21, 2020 at 03:38 PM

 Laurie Reese

“ she has always been such a ray of sunshine!! She has been so gracious to me and my family, it's hard not to love this woman!!!

Laurie Reese - August 21, 2020 at 02:57 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Jennie Lynn Vought Baker.



August 21, 2020 at 09:59 AM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Jennie Lynn Vought Baker.



August 20, 2020 at 10:51 PM

PC

“ Mike, I am so sorry to hear that Jennie passed away this past week. It has been ages since I have seen you or Jennie but I still remember what a kind and wonderful person she was. Evidently she continued to be a wonderful person, wife and mother. All the best, Phil Coleman

Phillip A Coleman - August 20, 2020 at 10:01 PM

M(

“ Monroe Moore (Roe!) purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Jennie Lynn Vought Baker.



Monroe Moore (Roe!) - August 20, 2020 at 07:45 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Jennie Lynn Vought Baker.



August 20, 2020 at 07:11 PM



“ Beautiful Whisper was purchased for the family of Jennie Lynn Vought Baker.



August 20, 2020 at 10:51 AM



“ Graceful Wreath was purchased for the family of Jennie Lynn Vought Baker.



August 19, 2020 at 07:07 PM



“ Prayers for Mike and the kids. Jennie had an infectious smile and brought such joy to many! With sincere sympathy, Mary Beth and Hank Alston

Mary Beth Alston - August 19, 2020 at 02:26 PM



“ Tom and Mary Baird purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Jennie Lynn Vought Baker.



Tom and Mary Baird - August 19, 2020 at 01:44 PM



“ Condolences to Jennie’s family. She was the epitome of grace and kindness. She championed for many, and has left a wonderful legacy and an example to us all. Grateful to have known her.

Cindy Lewis - August 19, 2020 at 11:28 AM

MH

“ *Deepest condolences to the Baker family! Jennie was such a beautiful treasure.*

Melinda Hickey

Melinda Hickey - August 19, 2020 at 10:23 AM

SF

“ *Thoughts and Prayers for Mike and the Family. With Sympathy Frank & Sue Ferlito*



Sue Ferlito - August 19, 2020 at 09:08 AM



“ *Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Jennie Lynn Vought Baker.*



August 18, 2020 at 05:29 PM



“ 33 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Dettling Funeral Home - August 18, 2020 at 04:54 PM

SC

“ *Jennie was a great friend and beautiful person. Always a smile. Always a good feeling. Always moving forward. We are recalling fun times during Easter holiday family trips to Purple Sage.*

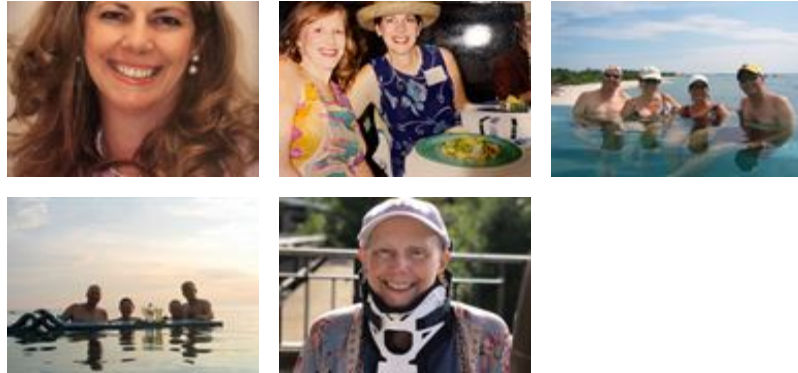
We are so sorry Jennie has left.

Sue & Chris Conway

Sue & Chris Conway - August 18, 2020 at 03:35 PM



“ 174 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Detting Funeral Home - August 18, 2020 at 02:56 PM



“ *Mike and family, I am saddened to hear about Jennie. She was one of my favorite trainees in pipeline all those years ago; always a big smile and kind heart. You are in my prayers as I pray for comfort for all of you.*

Judy Wagner - August 18, 2020 at 12:20 PM



“ *Debbie Barnett purchased the Silver Victorian Tear Bottle with FREE Matching Tray for the family of Jennie Lynn Vought Baker.*



Debbie Barnett - August 18, 2020 at 10:44 AM

DB

“ I think of y'all as my family. I wish Tom would take advantage of me and take a mini-vacation and let me take care of Mama joy and daddy Bob when he gets back. He knows I only live about 45 minutes from him. I love you all very much and it's hard for me to take care of y'all. I'm going to Miss Jennie very much I know that I can't do anything because I'm up here in fort Worth well Godley my heart breaks for y'all. I just wished I could do something for y'all.
Love. Debbie Barnett

Debbie Barnett - August 18, 2020 at 10:05 AM

JH

“ You will always hold a special place in our hearts sweet Jennie. The Haworth, Vought and Baker bond will continue on, new memories will be made and you will be at the heart of all of it. We are grateful for all the love and laughter we got to share together and I promise to think of you whenever I set a beautiful table, make a yummy meal, throw a party or hug Parker- You are everyones guardian angel now and the brightest star in the sky.
With love, Janet and Bob Haworth



Janet Haworth - August 18, 2020 at 08:52 AM

JS

Jennie was one of the 1st Conoco employees I met when I came back to work for Conoco in 1990. I was on the famous MDP program and I had to go meet with her to learn about her department. She was so nice and welcoming, patiently answered every question I could think of and then went on to share even more. I guess the bottom line was she made me feel valued and part of the Conoco family. I will never forget her kindness to me over 30 years ago.
She's at peace now away from the pain of this early body just waiting on the rest of us.
Respectfully,
Jeff Smith

Jeff Smith - August 18, 2020 at 10:09 AM

SP

Always enjoyed the days spent at the Bay House. Jennie made everyone feel at home. She touched so many people's lives. I'm sure Heaven is more happy and very well organized. Until we meet again.

Susan Popham - August 18, 2020 at 02:20 PM

JH

I knew Jennie and Mike at Conoco when they both started around 1980 and a big group of us did lots of fun things together back in the hey day of the oil business. Lots of good memories. Rest in peace dear Jennie - Heaven has a wonderful angel.

Jane E Harris - August 18, 2020 at 02:29 PM