



Mrs. Julia Gonzalina Abner

January 10, 1954 - November 17, 2022

Julia Gonzalina Abner, daughter of the late Gilfredo Espinosa and Eloisa Vizcaino de Espinosa was born January 10, 1954, in Cardenas, Matanzas Cuba. She was the eldest of seven children. In 1970 her family immigrated to America where her family made their home in Union City, New Jersey.

In 1974, Julia met and became fond of Leroy Abner Sr. That fondness blossomed into their marriage on May 21, 1977. Their love story spanned over 45 years and continues to this day, even after God called her home. Julia was raised in the Catholic Church, but she converted to the Baptist denomination after she met Leroy. Julia always kept God as the Shepherd of her life. She attended numerous churches with Leroy as they journeyed to different parts of the world as a military family. She became a member of Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church and was baptized in 2012. Julia served the church fulfilling the duties as Deaconess for the past 11 years. However, the Lord's work was never limited to His house. As God's child, Julia spread the word and God's love in her daily life.

In 1990 she returned to college as a non-traditional student and earned her bachelor's degree in Spanish. Like so many mothers, Julia wore many hats while earning her degree. She was full-time wife, full-time mom, and full-time student. She made history as a student at Methodist University by becoming

the university's first ever Cuban graduate in 1994. Julia was an educator teaching Spanish at all levels in the public-school systems in North Carolina to include pre-school and at the university levels. She had a passion for teaching and even spent endless hours commuting from Fayetteville, NC to Sanford, NC, and Roseboro NC to teach migrant workers English as a second language. For one year Julia committed 70 miles one way to Goldsboro to save a failing school system.

Julia is survived by her husband, Retired LTC. Leroy Abner Sr., son Leroy Abner Jr, daughter Dr. Audrey Amber Abner, and adopted son Terence Noel Holmes. Julia was preceded in death by her father, Gilfredo Espinosa, her mother, Eloisa Espinosa, and brother Gilfredo Salvador Espinosa. She leaves behind to cherish her memories her siblings Maria Victoria Tajman, Rolando Binovenido Espinosa, Isabel McKenzie (Keith), Olga Espinosa-Anderson (Ernest), and Carlos Rene Espinosa. Julia also leaves behind numerous in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins, and her extended family in Cuba.

Throughout Julia's illness her faith was steadfast and unwavering. She never complained, and she never asked why. Instead, she immersed herself in God's word. She studied several books of the bible, but her daily read was 23 Psalm. When asked how she felt about her illness, she gently responded, "One Day at a Time!"

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC 3. 12:00 PM (ET)

JD Fuller Recreation and Athletic Center
6627 Old Bunce Road
Fayetteville, NC 28314

Tribute Wall



“ *Colvin Funeral Homes & Cremations created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Julia Gonzalina Abner*



H. M. Colvin Funeral Home - November 29, 2022 at 12:29 PM

CC

“ *I met Julia in Gelnhausen West Germany. We shared many loving moments together. I consider Julia to be the sister I never had. Our friendship and love towards one another, and our families continued to grow through the tears. We were always present in one another's life during the celebratory moments of life, as well as when the weight of the world was weighing us down. She is my friend, my sister, and one of my greatest cheerleaders. I will truly miss talking to my loving friend. Yet I am excited knowing she is with God my father who loves her more than I could ever love her. Farewell my sister knowing that I will join one day when the Father calls me home.*

Camille Carpenter - December 06, 2022 at 10:29 PM

AL

I met Julia at LCMBC. She always had a smile on her face and words of wisdom to share. We were in the same mission group and coordinated vacation Bible school at my home. She was such a blessing to kids and all who knew her. Our last gathering was at IHOP in October where we had brunch and she was happy to share her daughter's engagement in Mexico on a yacht. She left some great memories. Rest in peace my sister. God's got you.

Alice - December 14, 2022 at 01:03 PM



“ You are always in my thoughts may youfesr in pea
Ce

Richardean Hinds - December 03, 2022 at 12:09 PM



“ Thinking of & praying for my brother, Leroy Abner, and family. My sincerest condolences in the loss of your beloved bride, Mrs. Abner. She had such a kind spirit and I will forever cherish our conversation at the Regional Conference back in April. May memories of her always bring you all joy. God bless her soul and may He comfort & strengthen you all!

Derek Bartee - December 02, 2022 at 10:43 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Julia Gonzalina Abner.



December 02, 2022 at 03:56 PM



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Julia Gonzalina Abner.



December 02, 2022 at 12:20 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Mrs. Julia Gonzalina Abner.*



December 02, 2022 at 08:40 AM



“ *Victor Walker and Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Julia Gonzalina Abner.*



Victor Walker and Family - December 02, 2022 at 07:42 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Julia Gonzalina Abner.*



December 01, 2022 at 07:34 PM



“ *My Dear Friend Julita, I'll always cherish your Friendship that lasted for many years and your contagious laugh, My condolences to Leroy, Leroy jr. and Amber, May God Give You Peace 🙏🌸💕*



Sara Oliva - December 01, 2022 at 07:15 PM

BH

“ *Barbra Hayes lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Julia Gonzalina Abner*



Barbra Hayes - December 01, 2022 at 05:43 PM

AM

“ *Deepest sympathy and love to Bro. Deacon Abner and Family. Mrs. Julia will be sorely missed! GOD BLESS YOU... "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."-- Matthew 5:4 (NIV)*



Antoinette McLaughlin - December 01, 2022 at 02:49 AM

TR

“ *It is with sadness to find that someone I loved and respected has transitioned. Mrs. Abner was a wonderful co-worker and friend. You will be greatly missed!*



Tisha Ray - November 29, 2022 at 04:10 PM

RA

“ *My family and I offer our heartfelt condolences to the family. From the short time I knew Julia she was a zesty woman who full of life and a zest. I will continue to keep the family in my prayers during this difficult time.*

Rosalyn Antoine - November 29, 2022 at 11:39 AM

TN

“ MY CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY



Tamika Nowell - November 26, 2022 at 11:31 AM

WL

“ *Julia's quiet and powerful personality drew me in as we became bench mates during Bible study. Her love of God, Leroy, her children, and her family were part of our pre-service conversations. Her inner beauty matched her outer beauty. I will miss her smile and laughter.*

Family, know that you were truly loved. God blessed you with a godly woman who gave of herself for your good. Know that the love and care that you gave her were recognized and appreciated. May God continue to strengthen you as you trust His Word, share your memories, and allow others to grieve with you.

*Love,
Wanda R. Lawrence*

Wanda R. Lawrence - November 26, 2022 at 07:09 AM

CW

Such a warm and selfless woman is who she was to me. I admired her strength and determination. She always gave so much of herself to her family, friends and people in general. She was love. And love endures forever. I will miss her.

Constance Wells

Constance Wells - December 21, 2022 at 08:56 PM