



Alita W. Romney

March 23, 1941 - July 26, 2022

Alita Wilkins Romney passed away on Tuesday, July 26, 2022. She is preceded in death by her parents, James Ralph and Eva Lina Judd Wilkins, her brother James Ralph, and her daughter Shawnie Romney Tull and grandson Ian Barlow Tull. Alita is survived by her loving husband of 56 years, Ianthus B. Romney Jr. (Barry), her children Raena Tonini, Darren Romney, Rochelle Thompson, Kimball Romney, Ronielle Romney, Annie Bales, Reeahn McKenna, her siblings Gail Trowbridge, Lee Wilkins, Reuel Wilkins, and Rae Carr, and 28 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Alita Wilkins Romney was born on May 23, 1941 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. She was raised in rural Idaho and loved her family dearly. While they did not have many physical possessions growing up, she always said they had plenty of love to spare. Alita was a people person and cherished her childhood friendships throughout her entire life. She had an interest in nursing from a young age and after high school she attended Ricks College where she studied nursing. She was named the Student Nurse of the Year for the state of Idaho while in school and said she had thought that would always be her “claim to fame”. Those who love her know that her legacy will go far beyond this achievement she earned early in her life.

While in nursing school, Alita’s bishop strongly encouraged her to serve a mission. Her academic advisors encouraged her to instead finish her coursework. She spent an evening at the temple grounds in Idaho Falls and received her answer to serve a full-time mission once her studies were complete. Serving her full-time mission was a significant time in her life and she would often share stories from this time. While serving in Japan, she met a young missionary from El Paso, Texas named Barry Romney who she became friends with.

After they returned from Japan, Alita and Barry continued their friendship and began their courtship in Provo, Utah. Barry was attending Brigham Young University and Alita was working as a nurse at the Provo Hospital. After their marriage, she continued her nursing career at the BYU Health Center while Barry finished his degree. After graduation, Alita

and Barry moved to Hill Air Force Base in Utah where they began a 21 year long career in the Air Force and Alita became a full-time homemaker. While it was always difficult for Alita to live away from her family in Idaho, she loved the experiences she and Barry had during their military career. After their assignment in Utah they were stationed in Fuchu AS in Japan, Sheppard AFB in Texas, Keesler AFB in Mississippi, Ramstein AB in Germany and Andrews AFB in Maryland. After retiring from the military, Barry and Alita stayed in the Springfield, VA area and have been in their home for 39 years.

Alita loved her children and was a wonderful mother. Many of the years she was busy raising her children and running her home she was heavily involved in different service callings for her church. Alita was a woman of faith and her beliefs impacted how she interacted with others. She loved people, and always wanted to truly know those she served.

Alita was diagnosed with cancer in 2005 and this began a long journey of increasing health difficulties for her. While her health kept her from doing many of the physical things she hoped to do in her later years, she was grateful for the time she had with Barry and often spoke of his dedicated service to her these past two decades. In spite of her many challenges, she had a passion for life and fought to remain with her family as long as possible. She is loved and will be missed by many.

Friends and family may gather for visitation on Friday, July 29, 2022 from 6:00-9:00 PM at Jefferson Funeral Chapel. A short visitation will be held on Saturday, July 30th, 2022 from 10:00-11:00 AM at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Sydenstricker Road in Springfield VA, with a funeral service at 11 AM at the same location. Interment will take place on Saturday, August 6th at 1 PM at Grant Cemetery in Idaho Falls with a reception to follow at the Coltman LDS ward building.

The service may be viewed virtually via the link below:

<https://zoom.us/j/97888936188>

To join by phone, please call:

+1 301 715 8592

Webinar ID: 978 8893 6188

International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/u/anpnO1zZ0>

Previous Events

Viewing

JUL 29. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel
5755 Castlewellan Drive
Alexandria, VA 22315
info@jeffersonfuneralchapel.com
<https://www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com>

Viewing

JUL 30. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
6942 Sydenstricker Rd
Springfield, VA 22152

Funeral Service

JUL 30. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
6942 Sydenstricker Rd
Springfield, VA 22152

Tribute Wall

DB

“ Barry,
I am just learning of Aliya's passing. Carol and I send our deepest condolences. You made friends with my parents decades ago in Germany, and we were privileged to associate with you for many years in Virginia. May you have a blessing of peace and comfort upon you and your family.
David and Carol Best.

David Best - July 30 at 02:57 PM

DB

My apologies for spell check auto correct on Alita

David Best - July 30 at 03:00 PM

LF

“ *Alita was a friend to me for as long as she lived just around the corner on Red Jacket. I remember one time she told me she was putting an ice cube on the thermostat in their hallway because Barry would be on the way home and he liked the house at a certain temperature. Also we shopped in Springfield, and Alexandria for a dress she could wear to one of her daughter's wedding reception. We had a fun time that day. We had lunch and we were talking so much I had difficulties parking the car. We laughed and went on with our day. Alita was truly an inspiration to me. She seemed to have it so right and I came along as the clumsy one, not sure of what to do all the time. We shared experiences, news about our children, spiritual topics, and world topics. Actually she called me once this year and told me she just wanted to give me a heads up as she was on the way to the emergency room. She wouldn't stop talking and Barry was in the background saying, "Alita, we have to go now." He repeated himself at least twice before she finally said goodbye. I am sure she will be sharing news with so many who have preceded her to their Heavenly home. Lona Mae Fish*

Lona Mae Fish - July 30 at 01:21 PM

HM

“ *Barry, words fail me. Alita was one in a billion - buy you know that- loving, fun, a dedicated servant, a true Christian and a woman of God. Barry, you set the example for all of us to emulate by the way you cared for her. Much love and comfort from Missouri. Hank Molinengo*

hank molinengo - July 30 at 12:43 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Alita W. Romney.



July 29 at 07:34 PM

GG

“ *My deepest condolences to the Romney family. From the limited time that I have known the Romney's (about 24 years), I know that Alita loves music. She and Barry both sang with The Mormon Choir of Washington DC for many years until I believe her health prevented continuation. Once after the choir performed a program to celebration the Restoration, I took a recorded CD by the house that I thought she would enjoy. I didn't hear anything and sometime later asked Barry and was told that he did not play it for her as the music was so beautiful and her health so tentative that he was afraid the music might sound to her as angels beckoning her home. Alita cherished her in-home women's choir of her four daughters, and they were angels. I had the opportunity, with permission to co-arrange a melody and arrangement with Sister Kirby of a poem written by her father titled, 'To Know My Savior'. The daughters, all four, sang it in our Ward and I cried. Alita beamed at the beautiful sound. While hearts heal from her loss here, Heaven's Choir has gained a wonderful voice and woman. My love to all of the Romneys during this time. Greg Goehring*

Greg Goehring - July 29 at 04:04 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray* was purchased for the family of Alita W. Romney.



July 29 at 09:00 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Alita W. Romney.



July 29 at 08:19 AM

LM

“ Alita has touched the lives of many people. Her parenting skills produced wonderful children. While living in Virginia, we needed before & after school care for our younger daughter Suzanne. Alita willingly agreed and continued this service for several years. Little did any of us realize that years later our older daughter Angela would marry her son Kimball and we would always be connected. She will always be remembered fondly and missed by many. We pray for peace and comfort at this time for her family and all who love her.

Bill and Linda Morgan

Linda Morgan - July 28 at 11:05 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Alita W. Romney.



July 28 at 05:16 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Alita W. Romney.



July 28 at 01:36 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Alita W. Romney.



July 28 at 01:21 PM

KA

“ I have so many pleasant memories of Alita, Barry, and their wonderful family. We moved in and out of our home in Springfield, Virginia three times with various Army assignments (between 1992 and 2008), and each time Alita and Barry were so welcoming and kind to my family. Thank you!

Ken Alford - July 28 at 11:38 AM

CC

“ I still remember the classes she taught as the Laurels transitioned into Relief Society. One in particular was on Emma Smith, emphasizing the grace that should be offered for enduring hardships we could only imagine. Just one memory of a woman who influenced me greatly for the better. Much love Romney family!

Catherine Carlson - July 27 at 06:27 PM