



Jonlyn Hock McCuan

December 19, 1954 - January 26, 2026

Jonlyn Hock McCuan, peacefully passed away on January 27, 2026. Jonlyn survived forty-four extraordinary years following two successful heart transplants. Her first donor match was made in 1982, and she was retransplanted in 2010 with the second donor heart. Over the course of her life, Jonlyn endured more than twenty surgeries and a bout with fungal meningitis. Her life—and the challenges she faced—stand as an extraordinary testament to her faith, perseverance, and grace.

“They say I am living history,” Jonlyn said in a newspaper article written on the twentieth anniversary of her first transplant. She was recently told that she was the longest-surviving heart transplant recipient in the United States. Known for her infectious giggle, Jonlyn delighted in an occasional glass of champagne, chocolate of any kind, and—most of all—the love of everyone who knew her. She cherished teaching Sunday School to first graders, her Garden Club, and the deep love she shared with her husband, John, and their extended family.

Jonlyn graduated from Sewickley Valley Hospital of Nursing and later was a graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing, as Suma Cum Laude. Jonlyn used her knowledge and compassion as a cardiac care nurse and a variety of nursing positions throughout the years. Her first job after Sewickley Valley was in Fort Lauderdale, Florida working in the

hospital as well as accompanying patients on airline flights to different locations. She later would move back to Charlotte, North Carolina and worked at the hospital there. Her next job was moving to Vero Beach, Florida and she later moved to Birmingham, Alabama. Jonlyn worked at UAB after she received her bachelor's degree and assisted many doctors in multiple fields. She also gave personal testimonials advocating for the importance of organ donation through the nonprofit, Donate for Life.

For her remarkable survival, she emphatically gave credit where she believed it belonged: "God—He sustained me," she said. "I never take a day for granted." In her memory, please consider becoming an organ donor, giving blood, or—if you feel led—donating to a nursing scholarship established in her honor. This was established with Jonlyn's blessing with the hope that it would support a nursing student who has overcome health challenges.

Jonlyn is survived by her loving husband of 46 years, John McCuan Jr., their two children, Danielle Sanford, her husband Paul and John McCuan III, his wife Melinda, Six grandchildren: Ryan, her husband Ben, Chase, Anna, her husband Bennett, Sarah, her husband Jimmy, Seth and Leah. Her two sisters, Jonette and Joanne. Her nephews, John and Will and step-siblings, Norman, Jean, Mike, Norma, Lynn, Lou, Richard, Diane, Jim, Judy, Jean, John, Robyn, Jim and their families.

"Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord."

Psalm 31:24

Donations may be made to:

UAB Gift Records

Gifts@uab.edu

AB 1230

1720 2nd Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35294-0112

St Jude's Hospital

Mail check and this form to 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105

Cemetery Details

Marvins Chapel Cemetery

4507 Bud Holmes Rd
Pinson, AL 35126

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 30. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Pinson
4036 Spring Street
Pinson, AL 35126
<http://www.fbcpinson.org>

Funeral Service

JAN 30. 1:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Pinson
4036 Spring Street
Pinson, AL 35126
<http://www.fbcpinson.org>

Committal Service

JAN 30 (CT)

Marvins Chapel Cemetery
4507 Bud Holmes Rd
Pinson, AL 35126

Tribute Wall

JM

“ Jim and I met Jonlyn and John at a start up church meeting on the Jeff State campus. We became close friends and enjoyed their visits to our home and visiting with them often. Our hearts go out to John and the family and so many other friends..

Jim snf Nadine Masterson - January 30 at 06:31 AM

SB

“ Susan, Gary, and Jordan Barthold purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Jonlyn Hock McCuan.



Susan, Gary, and Jordan Barthold - January 29 at 01:26 PM

SB

“ Susan, Gary, and Jordan Barthold planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jonlyn Hock McCuan.

Susan, Gary, and Jordan Barthold - January 29 at 01:26 PM

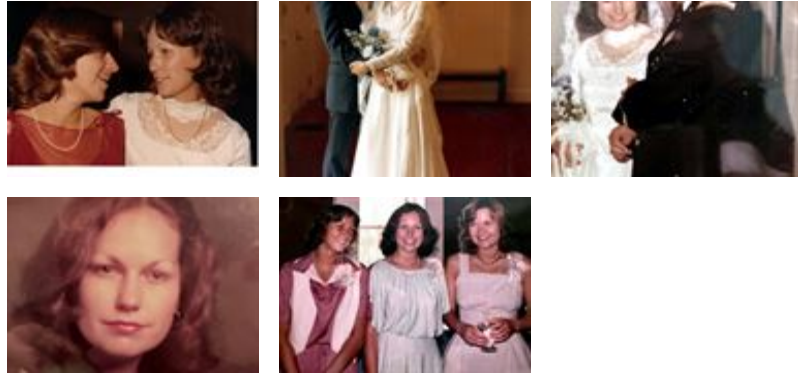
JJ

“ Jonlyn was a person who devoted a lot of thought and effort to contributing to the lives of others. She took great joy in giving a gift or making special food for those she loved. She will be greatly missed by those of us left behind.

John McCuan III - January 29 at 12:09 PM



“ 67 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Deerfoot Memorial Funeral Home - January 29 at 10:51 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Judy GALLOWAY - January 28 at 03:58 PM



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Deerfoot Memorial Funeral Home - January 28 at 03:43 PM