



Johnnie Nell McRae Liliedahl

OCT 13, 1945 - OCT 24, 2009



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Johnnie Nell McRae Liliedahl

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Memorial services for Johnnie Nell McRae Liliedahl, 64, of La Porte, Texas, will be held at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, October 28th, at Labby Memorial Funeral Home Chapel in Leesville, LA, with Rev. James Glass officiating. Burial will follow in the Self Cemetery under the direction of Labby Memorial Funeral Home of Leesville. Friends may visit on Tuesday, October 27th from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, October 28th from 8:00 a.m. until time of service at the funeral home.

Mrs. Liliedahl passed away Saturday, October 24, 2009 at a hospice hospital in Houston, TX, near her home in La Porte, TX after a long struggle with uterine and endometrial cancer.

A resident of La Porte, TX for the past ten years, and Baton Rouge, LA and Tulsa, OK before that, Johnnie was born in Leesville, LA. on Oct. 13, 1945, the daughter of John Wesley and Nellie V. McRae, Kurthwood Rd., Leesville, La.

Johnnie is survived by her husband of 25 years, Ralph A. Liliedahl, Jr., originally from Leesville, LA., but now residing in La Porte, TX.,; one son, Douglas Brandon Mason and his wife Melissa of Denver, CO.; two daughters: Jennifer Jennen and husband Mike of Wichita, KS; and Lynn Moran of La Porte, TX.; one brother, Morris Jean McRae and his wife Jackie of Leesville, LA., and seven grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her father, John Wesley McRae, her mother Nellie V. McRae, both from Leesville, LA., and her brother Duane McRae of Baton Rouge, LA.

After studying at L.S.U. and then obtaining her BA degree in Economics at Tulsa University in Tulsa, OK, Johnnie taught Economics at Tulsa University. While there, she became involved in oil painting and eventually developed her artistic talents to the point of becoming a professional



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artist, owning and operating a commercial art studio for many years in Sapulpa, OK, near Tulsa, called “The Mason Jar.”

In 1985 she married Ralph Liliedahl and together they opened Liliedahl Fine Art Studio & Liliedahl Video Productions in La Porte, TX. in 1999. Her paintings have been exhibited in national art shows, where she won several awards. In addition, she taught oil painting in her “School of Classical Oil Painting, ” in her commercial studio located in La Porte, TX, which had gained enough national recognition to be featured in an article in “The American Artist” magazine, then reprinted in a recent “Best of” article, published again by a national publication, The American Artist magazine.

She and her husband Ralph also filmed, edited, and marketed art instruction videos that featured not only Johnnie demonstrating her oil painting techniques, but also for some of the best known artists in the United States.

Johnnie was a nationally recognized artist, loved by many, and will be sorely missed not only by her family, but by those in art community, as she has touched many, many lives during her lengthy career of painting and teaching art.



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KT

Katie And Don Turner posted:

I had the opportunity to meet and visit Johnnie at her studio several times for the January teacher certification as one of the students. Both my husband Don and myself came to the studio so Don could model for Scott Powers at Johnnie's. What a wonderful lady and art instructor!!! We ALL will remember Johnnie!! Such a great lady. \r\n\r\nOur sympathy and prayers go out to the family of Johnnie Liliedahl.\r\n\r\nKatie and Don Turner\r\n\r\nFort Worth, TX

June 2 at 6:11 AM

JS

Joyce Sieve posted:

We will miss her, She was a very talented & sharing person to all her students along the way. Glad to have been a student. We are thinking of all of you.

June 2 at 6:11 AM

CS

Charles And Deborah Self posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time and always. If there is anything you need, please don't hesitate to let us know.

June 2 at 6:11 AM

RD

Roxanne Duke posted:

Today, I received my preordered Scott Tallman DVD. I held it close to my heart, unopened for a moment of silence. Taking a class with Johnnie was on my some day soon list, and now I can only wish I had met and studied with a master such as her. She will be sorely missed by all artists around the world. My accept my sympathies. Bless you all. Roxanne

June 2 at 6:11 AM

DT

Donna Talerico posted:

Ralph, you and your family are in Ric and my prayers. Johnnie will be missed by so many loving friends. Please know we love you and we all will be there in loving spirit for you during this time of loss.

June 2 at 6:11 AM



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KG

Kathleen Giese posted:

Dear Ralph,\r\n\r\nYou, your family, and your staff who I know are like family, are in my prayers.\r\n\r\nI remember so fondly visiting with Johnnie and you in Nashville in 2008 at the painting seminar. She was charming and talented as well.\r\n\r\nWhile she was an amazing artist and instructor, she remained humble and caring. She nurtured those of all levels that they might learn. That is the true mark of an incredible person in my book.\r\n\r\nMay God bless you and your family. He will give you strength to carry you through. There are many "painting" shoulders to carry all of you through. Don't be afraid to use them.\r\n\r\nWhile I am unable to attend the funeral, I will be there in spirit.\r\n\r\nSincerely,\r\n\r\nKathleen

June 2 at 6:11 AM

WW

Wendy Watson posted:

I am so sorry to hear of Johnnie's death. I was fortunate to take three painting seminars with her and she will be sorely missed. \r\n\r\nWendy M. Watson\r\n\r\nWendy's Red Door\r\n\r\nPainting Studio and Collectibles

June 2 at 6:11 AM

SH

Sandra Hoffman posted:

My vision is that Johnnie is now pain free, painting landscapes of heaven, portraits of angels and still life lit with God's love. She has been a blessing in my life for many years.

June 2 at 6:11 AM

RT

Rena Tucker posted:

Such an extraordinary woman. Words escape me. They cannot begin to convey the loss and sadness I feel for her passing, and the joy and appreciation I have for the time I knew her. She leaves a void which can never be filled or replaced. Her vision and talent have left a profound and indelible mark on the world of art, forever changing the way her students see and express creativity. I consider it an immeasurable honor and privilege to have been her student and part of the extended Liliedahl art family.\r\n\r\nJohnnie Liliedahl, thank you for gracing us with your presence. You will live in my heart forever.\r\n\r\nTo Johnnie's family/ies: I cannot possibly imagine your pain. My heart aches for you. I am so very sorry for your loss.

June 2 at 6:11 AM



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GR

Giuseppe Rossi posted:

We lost a great friend and an inspiring artist. Hope she'll be able to continue her journey and continue to live in our memory.\r\nG&D

June 2 at 6:11 AM

PL

Paul & Paula Lamoureux posted:

Ralph, We wish to offer to you and your family our prayers and sincere sympathies.

June 2 at 6:11 AM

AK

Ann Kelly posted:

May God take special care of all of you at this time of sorrow.\r\n\r\nYour Mother and wife was a wonderful person and will be missed by her family and friends. She gave the world beauty and enjoyment. Her life will live on forever with the talent she shared with the world.\r\n\r\nMay God bless each of you in a special way.

June 2 at 6:11 AM

BS

Beverly Sams posted:

I am saddened by Johnnie's passing. She was a beautiful person, an excellent teacher and a wonderful artist. She will be truly missed.

June 2 at 6:11 AM

SM

Sherry Maghsoodloo posted:

I am so sorry to hear of Johnnie's death. The world will surely miss having such a great artist and teacher. Johnnie inspired me to continue with my painting and I know she must have inspired many, many others to follow in her path. She has gone to be with the Father in Heaven and is in a much better place, at last. I know she had great courage to continue teaching and working after her diagnosis and I really appreciate getting to meet her in Nashville.

June 2 at 6:11 AM



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MS

Mary Stephenson posted:

My heart felt sympathies to the family, but also to all members of the art community. She will be greatly missed by everyone.

June 2 at 6:11 AM

PJ

Peter Jansen posted:

Ralph;\r\nIt is with a sad heart that I hear of the passing of the love of your life. I've truly enjoyed taking classes from Johnnie ... what an unbelievable talent she was! I was so looking forward to taking her class in Nashville this year. \r\n\r\nYou and the Liliedahl Fine Arts group are in my thoughts and prayers\r\n\r\nSee you in March.\r\n\r\nPeter Jansen

June 2 at 6:11 AM

KG

Kathie George posted:

Ralph, I can't believe we've lost our beloved Johnnie. Somehow I guess I thought it would'nt really happen. I'm so sad for you, Ralph, but so happy for having known Johnnie who was truly a special person. I never studied with her, but she taught me a lot about business, and life in general, actually. She was truly an example for me, I must say. There is a huge hole in my heart. She will be missed by me, the art world, and everyone who crossed paths with her. \r\n\r\nThanks for sharing her with us for so many years, Ralph. Please call if you need anything at all.

June 2 at 6:11 AM

EP

Elizabeth Pruitt posted:

Ralph,\r\nMy heart, thoughts, prayers are with you. She is now teaching the angels how to paint. You will see you her again. That I know. God Bless you\r\n\r\nLiz

June 2 at 6:11 AM

MM

Marie Merritt posted:

My deepest sympathy to Ralph, the family and the staff. I feel blessed to have had studied with Johnnie and learned so much from her. She was a lovely person and will be greatly missed, but her spirit lives on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

June 2 at 6:11 AM



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DF

Donnalee Felter posted:

I CAN NOT EXPRESS HOW DEEPLY THE LOSS OF JOHNNIE HAS AFFECTED ME. SHE WILL BE MISSED, ALWAYS

June 2 at 6:11 AM

MW

Misty Thillen-Witt posted:

For Johnnies family- May God heal your hearts after a loss of such a precious soul- My prayers will be with you\r\nMisty Thillen-Witt

June 2 at 6:11 AM

MC

Margot Clark posted:

Dear Ralph,\r\n\r\nMy heart is broken. I loved her and I loved you for loving her. You are in my thoughts and prayers. \r\n\r\nLove,\r\n\r\nMargot

June 2 at 6:11 AM

EH

Ellen Harlan posted:

May the Lord's peace be with you Johnnie and with all your loved ones. I'll miss you and your wonderful talent. You've given us all so much.

June 2 at 6:11 AM

JM

Jill Macfarlane posted:

Ralph, I must agree with Elizabeth that your dear Johnnie is teaching the angels above. Know that I have you in my prayers during this difficult time.

June 2 at 6:11 AM



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DM

Donna Harvey Milam posted:

I am so sorry to hear about Johnnie Nell, Ralph. I started daydreaming about times past and it seems just like yesterday we were in school & she was dancing around in her Marjorette outfit!!!\r\nWhere has the time gone??\r\nKeith(my husband) & I have been going over to Kemah for 15 yrs. sailing---- we had a 40' then a 45' Hunter Sail Boat so we could never keep them in Lake Charles. Of course, we have gone thru LaPorte each time! \r\nPlease know you will be in my prayers & thoughts, Ralph.\r\nLove You,\r\nDonna

June 2 at 6:11 AM

AJ

Andy Jones posted:

Ralph, I know that no words can adequately convey how sad I am for you and your family at Johnnie's passing. She was such a wonderful person, so caring and so talented. She touched so many lives and will live on in the art she inspired and taught so many to create. Heaven now has one too many angels.\r\nEveryone at the Museum wants to say how grateful we are to you for the support that you showed us over the years. \r\nMay time and wonderful memories comfort you.\r\nAndy

June 2 at 6:11 AM

SG

Sharon & Ray Gillenwater posted:

Ralph - \r\nOur thoughts and prayers are with you and Johnnie.\r\nLove,\r\nSharon & Ray

June 2 at 6:11 AM

JP

Jean Power posted:

Ralph,\r\nYour beautiful wife has always been an inspiration to me. I am the proud owner of many of her DVDs and her charm and her talent will forever be in my home. \r\nI remeber when I was visting my father in Galveston. I stopped by the studio to purchase some dvds. I literally stopped in my tracks and gazed upon her painting of Shadows. I was speechless and could only admire the striking beauty of the subject painted - a forlorn Lady of Shalott - of Tennyson. Your wife took the time to talk to me and discuss her painting.\r\nThat visit transformed my goals for what I wanted to be as an artist and I will never forget that. \r\nThank you Johnnie for sharing your gift with us all.

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CA

Charlotte Austin posted:

Dear Ralph, It's so hard to let go of someone who has filled your life and touched you in such a profound way. My heart hurts for you, me and all who love her so dearly. She truly mastered the art of oil painting and the art of life, always graceful to the end. I will truly miss her as I'm sure many will. God heal your pain now. My prayers are with you all.

Love,
Charlotte Austin

June 2 at 6:11 AM

RE

Rosemary Elorreaga posted:

Ralph and family, I got to know Johnnie when I traveled with her to La Romita in Umbria, Italy in 2001. What a neat talented lady she was. I learned so much from her. There is a line of Angels in heaven waiting to paint with her right now. Johnnie will continue to live in all of our hearts. The Liliedahl family will be in my prayers. God bless you. God only takes the very best.

June 2 at 6:11 AM

BR

Barbara Rushing posted:

Ralph, and Johnnie's children, my condolences, prayers and sympathy goes out to you as my heart is deeply touched to hear tonight, 10-27-09, of my friend, Johnnie's death. She was a special lady, artist and friend and we shared our birthdate and her passing on my husband's death date of last year has touched me. Ralph and children, be kind to yourselves through this painful process. May God help you to find comfort in her love, and the good memories she has left you.

June 2 at 6:11 AM

MB

Mary Burkhalter posted:

We are all sorry to hear of the loss of Johnnie. She has touched so many of our lives through her art and teaching of art. She will be greatly missed.

Mary Burkhalter
President- Lone Star Art Guild

June 2 at 6:11 AM

MP

Marchita Priest posted:

So sorry Ralph, Johnnie was a beautiful person inside and out. Will miss running into her across the country as she traveled to teach others. Such a great talent.

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VC

Victoria Culbertson posted:

Sorry for your loss of your dear loved one. I thank God for Johnnie Liliedahl, she was instrumental in helping me to continue my learning to paint through her dvds. She shared her gifts generously with us all, she will be missed. With sincere care I pray you will receive God's comfort.

June 2 at 6:11 AM

AB

Ann Broome posted:

To the Liliedahl family, I want to say I did not know Johnnie personally but did have the honor of taking her workshop in Nashville last March. She was a gracious lady and the art world will miss her and her artistic talents. With heartfelt sympathy to your family, May God be with you and comfort you.

June 2 at 6:11 AM

MM

Melba Miller posted:

Johnnie was inspiration for me in my art. I bought one of her paintings during a workshop and enjoy it every day. She will be truly missed. Love, Melba

June 2 at 6:11 AM

CV

Cathy Vincent posted:

my thought and prayers goes out to the family of mrs liliedalh.god bless u all in your time of sorrw.

June 2 at 6:11 AM

MS

Mary Ann Spainhour posted:

Dear Ralph, My heart is heavy. I had the wonderful opportunity to paint with Johnnie several times. She was the best. She will be missed by our painting community. She touched so many lives and inspired so many people and we have such good memories of her. Bless you and the children and know you are in my thoughts and prayers.

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DC

Darleen Christiansen posted:

I am just one of many,many students of Johnnie's, I only had the oppurtunity to take 2 classes one of which was a 3 day portrait workshop at the Houston Art Expo. It was so very interesting and Johnnie was a wonderful,patient teacher. It was a great experience all around. Thank you Johnnie. May your work live on with your spirit and may you rest in peace. Condolences to the Lilledahl family.

June 2 at 6:11 AM

JB

Judy Barbay posted:

Johnnie was an inspiration to many. I was blessed to have taken classes from her at SDP and Nashville. She opened my world up to portraiture. For that I could not thank her enough. She will be greatly missed and never forgotten. My prayers are with you and your family at this time of great loss.

June 2 at 6:11 AM

JL

Jeff Legg posted:

Ralph, \r\nMy heart hurts with you. I am so glad I was able to spend some time with Johnnie. She is obviously a wonderful person and I can see why you fell in love. My thoughts and prayers to you and your family. \r\nJeff

June 2 at 6:11 AM

PL

Patty Lowrie posted:

Ralph and all the \"family\" at the studio. I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Johnny was such a wonderful person and all of you always made me feel at home with you in the studio. I will always remember those days in class with you all and will always be grateful that I got to take some workshops from Johnnie. She was such a wonderful, gracious teacher.I know she is in heaven now and you will see her again. God Bless you in your grief.

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RW

Robin Williamson posted:

I am deeply saddened by this news that I just heard today. I'm am so sorry for your loss. I know that you know how beloved Johnnie was and what a wonderful, giving teacher and mentor she was. The time I spent with her I count among the highlights of my life. I learned so much from her and am still learning as I continue to hear her voice in my head saying the things she taught me in class. I'm only sorry I didn't get to spend more time with her. She will be greatly and profoundly missed as both a friend and mentor. My thoughts and prayers to you and your family during this difficult time.

June 2 at 6:11 AM

KP

Ken Pridgeon Sr. posted:

SHE IS THE GREATEST AND MOST GENTLE LADY I HAVE EVER MET AND ALWAYS HAD TIME FOR ME JUST AN OLD DAUBER, I ALWAYS FELT FORTUNATE TO HAVE A FEW MOMENTS WITH HER AND TOLD HER THAT I ALWAYS FELT LIKE I WAS HOBNOBBING WITH GREATNESS WHEN I WAS AROUND THIS GREAT LADY. I REMEMBER WELL MY LAST WORDS TO HER WAS YOU STAY AWAY FROM THEM OLD DOCTORS NOW, AND SHE LOOKED AT ME AND SAID TOO LATE. I WILL MISS YOU GREATLY JOHNNIE. ken the dauber

June 2 at 6:11 AM

CW

Cathy Williams posted:

I am so sorry Ralph and family. I have taken several classes with Johnnie here in Omaha when she has visited and also have taken a workshop at her studio about 4 years ago. She was such an inspiration to me and others. She taught me to look at my work with a new perspective and to look at the world with an artists eye. The art world has suffered a tremendous loss. Again, my condolences and am deeply saddened by her passing. Cathy Williams

June 2 at 6:11 AM

DM

Dolly Manion posted:

Dear Ralph and Family,\r\n\r\nJohnnie inspired me as she did so many people, artists and non-artists, with her talent and her always-positive approach to art and to life. This is her legacy to me and to countless others so blessed to have known her. \r\n\r\nI pray that in your grief you will find comfort in knowing the depth of her love for you. I imagine as she meets her Maker, that funny little "Johnnie" smile softens across her face. That same smile, waiting for you.\r\n\r\nMay God Bless you and keep you.\r\n\r\nDolly Manion

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DB

Dottie Bassett posted:

Ralph, I am so sorry for your and the children's loss. I loved Johnnie. She was a Buddy.\r\nJohnnie has been a Friend and Teacher to so many of us. I am so grateful to have had her in my life. Johnnie was and is my Mentor - She made me understand.\r\nPlease know I will keep you close to my heart. You were a Trooper

June 2 at 6:11 AM

DS

Donna Sims posted:

Dear Ralph,\r\nMy condolences for u. Johnnie was an exceptional bright light that the art world will grieve for eons. Her personality, talents, and teaching reached so many of us in ways that no other person could ever do. Bless u & may God watch over u . Bless Johnnie as she rests in ART heaven among those angels of glory.\r\nHugs,\r\nDonna

June 2 at 6:11 AM

GR

Gail Routt posted:

I truly am sorry for your loss. Although I haven't been in one of her classes, friends of mine have and I admired her as a great artist. The world of art will miss her dearly. God Bless -- you are in my prayers.

June 2 at 6:11 AM

HL

Harriet Lewis posted:

My deepest condolences to Johnnie's family. I first met Johnnie over 20 years ago, in Tulsa, OK at a conference held by Triangle...I had traveled by myself to take my first oil canvas class with Johnnie. I got to meet Johnnie and Heidi England as we all arrived and were checking in the the hotel at the same time, just in time for dinner. We all decided to got together. I enjoyed having dinner with her, hearing about her artistic journey, appreciating her friendship, encouraging words, as well as her good humor. What a talented artist!!! and such a gifted teacher!!! I had the fortune to study a second time, with her when a fellow Dogwood Chapter member held a seminar in the metro Atlanta area. Since then, we've moved to NC, finally able to think about painting once again, I have just recently been making plans with two friends to travel to her new studio next year, not knowing she had been so sick... What a sweet, encouraging, brilliantly talented lady we have all lost, but I am thankful for her faith because we will see her again. May the Peace of the Lord be with you and yours, especially in this time of sorrow.\r\nAnother painting friend,\r\nHarriet Lewis

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JC

Joyce Conner posted:

I was so sorry to hear about Jonnies Passing. What a wonderful artist we have lost. I am so happy I was able to see her paint.\r\nI know she will be painting with the angels. My sympathy goes to the family at this time.\r\nJoyce Conner

June 2 at 6:11 AM

CT

Celeste Toney posted:

I always admired her work but I was able to take only 1 of her wonderful classes. What a loss for all of us! My condolences

June 2 at 6:11 AM

JM

Jim Mcintosh posted:

With deepest sympathy to Ralph and the Liliedahl family. Johnnie was a remarkable artist and influential teacher who's work will continue to have a positive impact on artists and collectors in the future.

June 2 at 6:11 AM

CC

Cathi Harris Covert posted:

Dear Ralph and family, I just heard of Johnnie's passing. It was such an honor to study with her in Nashville, La porte and in Orlando. She has inspired so many of us to paint and I will never forget time spent with the two of you. I have no doubt that she is in heaven chatting with \"Bouguereau\" and a few other of her favorite Old Master painters. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.

June 2 at 6:11 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Johnnie by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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