



Judith "Judy" Nelson Tawney

January 7, 1943 - November 9, 2025

Judith "Judy" Nelson Tawney, 82, of Toano, Virginia, passed away on November 9th, 2025. She was the daughter of Marvin and June Nelson.

Judy was born in Madison, WV and was a graduate of the class of 1960 at Scott High School and briefly attended Marshall University.

Judy married her high school sweetheart, John Tawney, in 1961. Together they had four children, John "Wesley" Tawney Jr, Eric Tawney, Julie Steele, and Angie Tawney. She worked cleaning houses and eventually opened her own business for over 20 years.

Throughout her life she enjoyed being the neighborhood mom, gathering with friends and family, cross stitching, gardening, music (we feel confident she's had some face time with Elvis already), trips to the mountains and beach, fishing, quilting, adventuring with her gal pals, thai food, and making sure everyone felt special.

Judy later welcomed five grandchildren and one great grandchild. She was an amazingly loving grandmother to Justin Monroe, Brittney Tawney, Ryan Tawney (wife, Danielle Tawney), Madison Steele Coven, and Olivia Steele and great granddaughter, Lily Madison.

Judy was known for her extremely kind heart, unwavering dedication to her family, (attending all of the chorus concerts, softball games, talent shows, cross country meets, and the horse shows) and welcoming spirit (there was a minimum of 12 children on any occasion who were greeted with snacks, Popsicles and kool-aid). She was a devoted daughter, sister, wife, mother, and friend. She loved to laugh and would do anything to bring comfort and happiness to others. (She might not always make the dirty joke, but she would definitely laugh at it.) Judy could be persuaded at any time into any sort of adventure, whether it was an impromptu shopping trip, an overnight Nascar race in the infield with Eric, Wesley, and hundreds of drunken race fans, or a road trip to a mountain cabin in the woods.

Judy had a nurturing presence, a never-ending smile, and a heart as big as they come. She was selfless, supportive, and never judgmental. (Even when we made the worst decisions, sometimes ongoingly). She made sure her children knew that life was about the little things, to eat the cookie first, make the plans, take the risks, love incredibly hard, and be kind to everyone.

Judy was preceded in death by her parents, Marvin and June Nelson, her husband, John Tawney Sr., and her son, Wesley Tawney Jr.

She is survived by her children, Eric (and wife, Sheila), Julie, and Angie, her grandchildren, Justin, Brittney, Ryan, Madison (and husband, Nick Coven), Olivia, and great granddaughter, Lily, and her sister, Marvagene Dickson.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 4:00 pm on November 20th, 2025 at Vincent Funeral Home, 9923 Pocahontas Trail, Providence Forge, VA 23140.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV **20**. 4:00 PM (ET)

Vincent Funeral Home, Providence Forge Chapel
9923 Pocahontas Trail
Providence Forge, VA 23140
(804) 966-7075

Tribute Wall

JS

“ 1 file added to the album WE MISS YOU!!



Julie Steele - November 25, 2025 at 11:45 AM

ET

“ Julie, My heart is aching for you, friend. Losing a mom is never easy. I'm here for you, and I'm sending all my love. I'll always cherish the memories of your mom and she had a way of making everyone feel loved❤️.



Elisa Townsend - November 20, 2025 at 08:23 PM

TW

“ Sorry For Your Loss



Thomas Widgeon - November 14, 2025 at 08:11 AM

HW

“ HENRY WARD lit a candle in memory of Judith "Judy" Nelson Tawney



HENRY WARD - November 14, 2025 at 06:15 AM

RK

“ I'm very sorry she is gone but very glad I got to know her and call her my friend.



Ronald B Kirby - November 13, 2025 at 12:23 PM

JC

“ I have lots of good memories of my aunt Judy from seeing her work in her garden, being by the pool and on deck at her home and watching her, my uncle and mom and dad play cards. But some of the best happen when just simply running into one another around town and having a very quiet conversation between the two of us. I will miss those moments the most.

JoElla Cifers - November 13, 2025 at 09:13 AM

FC

“ Freddy Cowles lit a candle in memory of Judith "Judy" Nelson Tawney



Freddy Cowles - November 13, 2025 at 07:36 AM

CF

I'm so proud to have called Judy my friend. She & I worked together and even though we were working we had fun ! We laughed till we cried . We hugged each other through the hard days . She was one of the sweetest, kindest & loving friends I ever had the privilege to know . Judy, it's finally your turn to rest . Go fly high upon that mountain and live in peace forever more . I will miss you my friend. Cathy

Cathy Fleming - November 13, 2025 at 01:49 PM

LD

“ *My memories of Aunt Judy reach back to my earliest days, and her gentle spirit and kindness have remained with me throughout my life. Though time passed and miles separated us, nothing ever diminished the love and affection I held for her. She and my father's brother Johnny, building a beautiful family and a warm, loving home—one shaped by faith, devotion, and grace.*

I take comfort in knowing that she is now wrapped in God's eternal light, reunited with loved ones who went before her. In God's kingdom, families are made whole again, and the bonds we cherish on earth are renewed in His perfect presence.

Until God gathers us together again, her memory will remain a quiet comfort with all that knew and loved her.

*Rest in God's Glory,
Linda Tawney-Dodson, NM
Daughter of James H. and Josephine*

Linda Tawney Dodson - November 12, 2025 at 09:34 PM

TM

“ My dear beloved aunt judy She was truly one of the most beautiful kind malevolent and loving human beings that God ever put on the Earth. I was so thankful to know when I was but 8 or 9 that she was my aunt. She was my mother's brother, Johnny's wife. Judy was so very good to me growing up and giving me such kindness and love throughout the time that we knew one another. I am her nephew by marriage, TONY ROWE-MILAND As such a wonderful person, I am so thankful that in this life. I got to know such a wonderful and beautiful person for as long as I live. She will be remembered wonderfully fondly, and in my mind one of gods children, and I hope to see her. And all those I loved in heaven when christ comes back again , love to the family in my prayers , tony

TONY ROWE MILAND - November 12, 2025 at 02:17 PM

GB

“ I always loved when Judy came to visit her parents in WV. She was the sweetest woman.

Gaye Baisden - November 12, 2025 at 12:22 PM

PJ

“ Judy's obituary was a perfect description...
We were high school & band friends, loved by all who knew her.
Prayers for her family 🙏🙏



Pat Jarrell - November 12, 2025 at 12:04 PM