



Carol Ann (Penn) Skeen

October 7, 1937 - April 14, 2026

Carol Ann (Penn) Skeen, age 88, of Ewing, Virginia passed away surrounded by her family on Tuesday, April 14, 2026. She was born on October 7, 1937 at the Fort Jay Army Base in New York City.

A true Army Brat, Carol grew up across the United States in places like Colorado Springs, Puerto Rico, Blackstone, Virginia, and Philips, Wisconsin, before starting and finishing high school at Fort Knox High School in Kentucky. Fresh off a bus from Louisville to study History at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, TN, she met her future husband and life-long partner, Ronald Skeen, when he helped unload her bags when she arrived on campus in September 1955.

She began her 44 year-long career as a teacher at Forge Ridge High School where she taught English and Typing before landing at Thomas Walker High School in 1963 where she influenced students' lives all the way through her retirement in 2003. Detailed and driven, she was a true believer in the power of hard work and always stood up for an underdog.

Carol was beloved to all who knew her for her independence, ideals, humor, honesty, and especially her loyalty. She loved her family, friends, and finding a good deal. A long-time member of Christ of the Cumberland Lutheran Church of Harrogate, TN, she taught Sunday School and played the organ for

many years.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 67 years, Ronald Lee Skeen, of Ewing, VA and son Jerry Ronald Skeen, of Lexington, KY; she is survived by grandson, Collin Alexander Skeen and wife Diana Jean Skeen, of Lafayette, CA; granddaughter, Hunter Katherine King and husband Air Force Captain Bradley Wayne King, great-grandchildren Oaklyn, Odin, and Tilian King of Omaha, NE; and sister, Gloria Penn Gerould, of Sandston, VA.

Now finally reunited, she tirelessly cared for her husband Ronald until his death in 2024, never wavering in her commitment to their partnership and marriage. Whether supporting him during his long coaching career or traveling across the South for classic car shows, they spent their many decades together, teaching at Thomas Walker, raising their family, and supporting their community.

The family will receive friends from 5 until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 16, 2026 at Robinette Funeral Home in Rose Hill, VA. A Celebration of Life will follow at 7:00 p.m. with pastor Gordon Smith officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family is working toward putting together a scholarship for the third-ranking student at Thomas Walker High School. Details for how to donate to the scholarship will be available at a later date.

Online condolences may be viewed or sent by visiting our website, www.RobinetteFuneralHomes.com. Robinette Funeral Home of Rose Hill is serving the Skeen family.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **16**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Robinette Funeral Home (Rose Hill)
207 DeRoyal Industries Drive
P.O. Box 388
Rose Hill, VA 24281
(276) 445-5101

Celebration of Life

APR **16**. 7:00 PM (ET)

Robinette Funeral Home (Rose Hill)
207 DeRoyal Industries Drive
P.O. Box 388
Rose Hill, VA 24281
(276) 445-5101

Tribute Wall

RM

“ I always admired her strong spirit. May she rest.

Rebecca Murphy - April 20 at 04:54 PM

AS

“ I had her as a teacher and she was a great one! After I got out of school and own my own I had seen her several times out and about and it was always a pleasure and a privilege to get to talk to her! She impacted so many! She will be missed but her memory will live on forever! R.I.P Mrs Skeen.



Amanda Stapleton - April 17 at 09:10 PM

TM

“ Theresa Marsee lit a candle in memory of Carol Ann (Penn) Skeen



Theresa Marsee - April 17 at 07:18 PM

MW

“ I had Mrs. Skeen for typing and my greatest memory was her turning on Eric Clapton and making us type to that music. I loved her class. She was one of the best teachers TW had.



Michelle Clonce Ward - April 16 at 08:36 PM

MH

“ Merlyn Horton lit a candle in memory of Carol Ann (Penn) Skeen



Merlyn Horton - April 16 at 07:54 PM

GR

“ I had Carol for a typing teacher I think for two years. She was most likely my favorite teacher. After I graduated I would go by to see her and “Coach” Skeen. We became friends, not just teacher and student. I always loved visiting her and felt like she loved me too. I’m sad about her homegoing but definitely happy she is with The Lord. Ginger Rummel

Ginger Rummel - April 16 at 05:39 PM

CL

“ Candy Lowe lit a candle in memory of Carol Ann (Penn) Skeen



Candy Lowe - April 16 at 04:23 PM

BS

“ Betty Smith lit a candle in memory of Carol Ann (Penn) Skeen



Betty Smith - April 16 at 03:23 PM

BS

“ I was in Mrs. Skeen's Civics class fall of 1963. She viewed teaching as "challenging students" to discover beyond the basic curriculum and had us researching by utilizing teamwork. I loved that innovative approach and used the same method when I began my teaching career. I loved her "no nonsense" classroom management while allowing us, her students, to have fun as we honed our academic skills/knowledge. She was a wonderful friend.

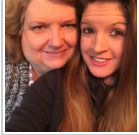
Betty Smith - April 16 at 03:22 PM

LL

“ I met Carol when I began my teaching career at Thomas Walker HS. She welcomed me with open arms and supported my Library Media Center throughout my entire teaching career. She was a huge advocate for reading and research and encouraged her students to take full advantage of all our small library had to offer. Carol was more than just a fellow teacher, she became my very special friend. She and I, along with Vicki Snodgrass and Peggy Long, both fellow teachers at TWHS, became very close friends and embarked on many wonderful adventures together. Carol taught with compassion and a desire for success for her students. I loved being around Carol and enjoyed her company outside of the school setting. She was truly one of a kind with a heart made of gold. Rest well my special friend. Just know you will be dearly missed.



Linda Lewis - April 15 at 08:43 PM



“ Linda Cowan lit a candle in memory of Carol Ann (Penn) Skeen



Linda Cowan - April 15 at 06:07 PM



“ John Harber lit a candle in memory of Carol Ann (Penn) Skeen



John Harber - April 15 at 02:42 PM



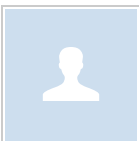
A wonderful teacher and friend..

John Harber - April 15 at 02:42 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Carol Ann (Penn) Skeen.

April 15 at 12:04 PM



“ Love's Tapestry was purchased for the family of Carol Ann (Penn) Skeen.



April 15 at 12:04 PM

LR

“ *Lisa Ramsey lit a candle in memory of Carol Ann (Penn) Skeen*



Lisa Ramsey - April 15 at 09:07 AM

PP

I remember Mrs. Skeen from Forge Ridge High School. She was my typing teacher. She was very nice and the boys liked to trick her for fun at times. She enjoyed all of us. We all really liked her.

Pat Christian Roy Pauley - April 15 at 03:07 PM