



Mrs Julia Pettigrew

January 12, 1931 - October 16, 2025

Julia McArthur Pettigrew

January 12, 1931 — October 16, 2025

Julia McArthur Pettigrew passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family, at the home of her son in the Good Hope community of Leake County on the afternoon of October 16, 2025. She was 94.

She was born on January 12, 1931, delivered by a midwife at home near Preston in Kemper County. She was the fourth of seven children of Richmond McArthur and Mary Dow Rosamond McArthur.

She was a child of the Great Depression. She grew up working in the fields on a farm. She remembered eating turnip greens and boiled dry peas in winter, and sometimes going to bed hungry. One of her childhood Christmas memories was when the girls got red rubber balls and the boys got packs of firecrackers. They had thought that they weren't going to get anything, so they were happy.

She graduated from Lynville High School in 1950. She got a job as a nursing aide at the Mississippi State Hospital, where she met her future husband, who also worked there. She married Billy Pettigrew on February 9, 1952. They were married for 49 years, until he died in 2001.

Early in their marriage, they moved to Waukegan, Illinois, where he worked for the Veterans Administration and she worked at a department store lunch counter. They stayed only a couple of years – long enough to earn enough money to buy a 40-acre farm on what is now McDonald Road near Good Hope. She lived there for the rest of her life.

She took a job as a seamstress at the Carthage Corporation, a pants factory. She worked there for 29 years. She despised the work, but that's how she supported her family and sent her children to school. She retired when failing health and eyesight forced her to quit.

Julia and Billy Pettigrew had two children, Beverly Pettigrew Kraft (David) and Delmer Pettigrew (Deana). She is survived by her children; five grandchildren, Pamela J. Lowe (Matt), Sam Pettigrew, Noah Pettigrew, Mary Kraft Cochran (Nathan) and Julie Kraft Graves (Cody); nine great-grandchildren, Conner Green, Josiah Green, Sunny Lynn Pettigrew, S.J. Pettigrew, Kinsley Cochran, Anna Carol Cochran, Julia Grace Cochran, Tori Cochran and Joseph Lowe; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, all of her siblings, and all of his siblings. She was the last of her generation.

Pallbearers are Sam Pettigrew, Noah Pettigrew, S.J. Pettigrew, Josiah Green, Mary Kraft Cochran, Nathan Cochran, Joseph Lowe, and Kyle McCormick. Matt Lowe is an honorary pallbearer.

The family expresses sincere gratitude to the staff of Gentiva hospice care of Newton, especially nurses Meagan Edwards and Tyler Richardson and staff member Brittany Graham, for their gentle and compassionate care during Mrs. Pettigrew's final days.

Cemetery Details

McDonald Cemetery

5379 Utah Road
Lena, MS 39094

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **20**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Wilcox Funeral Home
106 S Jordan Street
Carthage, MS 39051
(601) 267-8081
wilcoxfh@netdoor.com
<https://www.wilcoxfuneralhome.com/>

Service

OCT **21**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Wilcox Funeral Home
106 S Jordan Street
Carthage, MS 39051
(601) 267-8081
wilcoxfh@netdoor.com
<https://www.wilcoxfuneralhome.com/>

Burial

OCT 21 (CT)

McDonald Cemetery
5379 Utah Road
Lena, MS 39094

Tribute Wall

KC

“ Sorry to hear about your mom Flame you all will be in my prayers



Kimberly Craig - October 18, 2025 at 05:28 PM

CR

“ Charlotte Rasco lit a candle in memory of Mrs Julia Pettigrew



Charlotte Rasco - October 18, 2025 at 01:55 PM

CR

I am so sorry for your loss. I will always remember your mom taking us to Vacation Bible School at Good Hope whenever we were at the farm. And watching her listening to Jimmie Rodgers on the record player. Your family was always special to my family. We cherished your friendship. I know it's going to be hard, and it will for sometime. It's been over a year since my mom died and I have problems everyday, especially at holidays and her birthday!

We all know that your mom is not suffering anymore and she is in Heaven celebrating with your dad and Jesus. Always remember the good times!

Charlotte Rasco - October 18, 2025 at 02:02 PM



“ Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs Julia Pettigrew.



October 18, 2025 at 12:17 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of your mom's passing. I loved her and I love you and your family. Love & prayers Flame!

Deborah Swain - October 18, 2025 at 12:00 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Mrs Julia Pettigrew.



October 17, 2025 at 07:01 PM