



## Ms. Janie Smith Barnes Obituary

September 30, 1939 - May 31, 2012

Melba Jane "Janie" Smith Barnes, 72, died on May 31, 2012 at her residence in Albany. A memorial service will be held on Sunday June 3, 2012 at 3:00 PM at Kimbrell-Stern with Rev. John Spencer officiating. Visitation will be held on Saturday June 2, 2012 from 6-8 PM at Kimbrell-Stern.

Janie was a resident of Albany, GA. since 1966 and touched the lives of many in this town. Janie worked at the Albany Chamber of Commerce and the Albany Area Arts Counsel during the Bicentennial in 1976. She was known as Zippy Mart Janie during the early 70's and was a proud member of the Albany Red Hat Ladies Society. Janie worked at the Sheraton Inn during the early 80's and finished her career as the Event Coordinator for the Albany Civic Center. Janie will be greatly missed by friends and family but will always be remembered for all of the wild and interesting stories she has told.

She is survived by a daughter Debra Allen ( Floyd) of Leesburg, GA, four sons John Ross Barnes, Jr.( Lois) of Chicago, IL., Randy Barnes of Albany, GA., Joseph Paul Barnes( Dean'na) of Leesburg, GA. and Richard Stephen Barnes (Gabbi) of Hamilton, GA.; one sister Jackie Beckley of Bremerton, WA.; one brother Buddy Smith of Live Oak, FL., and ten grandchildren: Jennifer Craft(Brandon), Jansen Barnes, Dylan Barnes, Skylar Barnes, Carolyn Barnes, Hannah Barnes, Kayla Barnes, Madison Barnes, Karsyn Barnes and Emily Barnes.

You may sign the guestbook and share your thoughts with the family of Mrs. Barnes by visiting Kimbrell-Stern's website at [www.kimbrellstern.com](http://www.kimbrellstern.com)



# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 2. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Directors  
1503 Dawson Rd.  
Albany, GA 31707

## Memorial Service

JUN 3. 3:00 PM (ET)

Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Directors  
1503 Dawson Rd.  
Albany, GA 31707

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ms. Janie Smith Barnes Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 01:29 AM



“ *Ms. Janie Smith Barnes Obituary*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ *Janie and I worked together at the Civic Center for 16 years. ...concerts, rodeos, circuses, wrestling, ice shows.....the list goes on. Janie made it fun more than work. She had a sense of humor that most "southern belles" couldn't pull off.*

*The last time I went to see her in the hospital, we were laughing so hard, the nurse threw me out so her blood pressure would go down.*

*Since she retired, we didn't speak often but facebook and e-mails kept us in touch. I still find myself almost forwarding to her a cartoon e-mail that I think she might like.*

*Janie was a unique friend and will be missed by me as long as I live.*

*Pat*

Pat Owens - Albany, GA - friend - June 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ Janie befriended me when we returned to Albany in 2004. She opened her heart and arms to me and my entire family and loved us all as her own, as we returned that love to her family. Her son "Randy" is like my own son and my family loves him dearly. Our prayers are with them all. We will miss you forever "girlfriend" and you will never be forgotten. Linda

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**Linda Dukes - Albany, GA - Best friend** - June 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ The love that Janie showed to me while employed at The Albany Civic Center will never be forgotten. It is my prayer that God will keep her family during this difficult period.

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**Juanita - Albany, GA - friend** - June 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BV

“ I am a Leon High School Class of 1957 classmate of Janie's. My condolences to all her family. She was quite a person!

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**Billy W. Surles - Annandale, VA** - June 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family, her children who, I grew up with. Ms Janie was always known for her positive attitude and we shared many memories back in the days of The Sheraton. I pray right now for comfort from the Lord during this difficult time for her children and grand children. She will be sadly missed by many. Warmest Regards-Joel Hugh Downs <><

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**Joel Hugh Downs - Dubkin , GA - family friend** - June 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ Joey,Dean'na & family,  
So sorry to hear about Janie. My thoughts and prayers are with you.  
She was certainly one of a kind and everyone loved her.  
Love, Lynn Marshall

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**Lynn Marshall - Albany, GA - friend,neighbor** - June 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ Janie was a neighbor, coworker and friend. Hardly a week goes by without someone mentioning a time when Janie.....or remember when Janie said.....or ask if Janie ever told you the story about.....,Janie was definately one where you can say the mold was broken after her.  
She will be missed by many. My sympathy's and prayers go out to her family and hope they find comfort in knowing that Janie genuinely touched many lives and will always be remembered with good cheer.

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**Roger Burnett - Albany, GA - former co-worker** - June 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM

F1

“ Janie was a classmate of our Leon High School class of 1957 in Tallahassee.  
She kept in touch with us by email; she will be missed by her LHS '57 class.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Janie on her "journey" and with her family  
left behind for a while. -- Francis Watson, LHS '57 classmate

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**Francis Watson - Tallahassee, FL - Leon High School class of 1957** - June 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ *To the family of Janie:  
I worked with Janie, as a volunteer with the Chamber for years.  
Her enthusiasm for Albany, for life, and for those around her, made  
her such a pleasure to be around. Please know that I thought the  
world of Janie.  
Sincere sympathy,  
  
Patsy Martin.*

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**Patsy Martin - Albany, GA - friend** - June 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ *Janie 'adopted' me when I was 15. When the Barnes family moved  
in to the house next door to us, she introduced herself as Big  
Mama. She immediately became my 'other mother'. She wrapped  
her loving arms around my heart and never let go. Through thick  
and thin, marriage and the birth of my daughter April then later my  
granddaughter Maelyn - she was there if not in body, always in  
spirit.*

*One of my fondest memories, besides her stories, was watching her  
put her pearls on April the day she got married. Her kind words of  
encouragement helped me make it through the dark days of my life.*

*Janie was sweet, kind, quick-witted and pure joy to be around. I will  
always be thankful and deeply grateful for the ways she impacted  
my life. She won't rest in peace cause knowing her; there is one  
heck of a party going on in Heaven right now.*

*To my little sister Deb and my other brothers, thank you for sharing  
mama with me. I love you all so very much and my heart aches for  
your loss. May peace be with you all.  
Little Janie*

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**Little Janie - Ormond Beach, FL - The other daughter** - June 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ *Janie you were a ray of bright light and life. Always positive outlook on everthing and was great for a wonderful laugh ans times. I am so blessed to have been in your company and Debs family also.*

*Becky Mae*

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**Becky Barrick - Avon, IN - Friend Thru Janie Ray - June 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM**

MD

“ *Janie was a like a mother to me and was there for me when my own passed away. I was always a moth to her flame. You always wanted to be in her company. She was always happy and lots of fun. I will miss her. Deb, Johnny, Randy, Joey and Bam were my extended family my thoughts and prayers go out to them and their own families on the loss of Janie.*

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**Maria Agostino - Warrenton , VA - Friend of Debra - June 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM**

BD

“ *You have been and will continue to be in our thoughts and daily prayers. We are sorry for your lost. If you need anything, please let us know. Love you, Bubba and Cathy Ivey*

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**Bubba & Cathy Ivey - Albany, GA - Friends of Joey and Dean'Na - June 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM**

RF

“ *Joey and Barnes family,*

*Tracy and I are sorry to hear about your loss. May God give you all the strength to endure during these tough days ahead.*

*Ricky & Tracy Harrell*

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**Ricky & Tracy Harrell - Albany, GA - friend of family - June 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM**

BF

“ *prayers and condelences to you and your family. we love you!*  
*Bonnie & Mike Clark*

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**Bonnie Clark - Albany, GA - friend of Debra & Floyd** - June 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *Our thought and prayers go out to the barnes family in this hard time, may god lift your spirits as you grieve for your loved one.*

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**Jennifer - Camilla, GA - Friend of Randy barnes** - June 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to the Barnes family. I did not know Janie for long, but she was wonderful to me, and treated me like family. I will miss her good humor, great personality, and kind nature.*

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**John Meadors - Albany, GA - friend** - June 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ *Janie was everyone's best friend and always kept us laughing. She could always pull in the volunteers at the Chamber. She'll be missed by so many people and organizations.*

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**Milt Robinson - Albany, GA - Friend** - June 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM