



## Isla Jean York Lindsey

July 30, 2021

### JEAN YORK LINDSEY

Isla Jean York Lindsey was whip-smart, beautiful, and fiercely independent for almost 94 years, died July 30, 2021, in Roanoke, Virginia. She lived her life fully – with determination, grit, and sass – and died peacefully surrounded by the love of her family.

Jean was born September 7, 1927, in Welch, West Virginia, the daughter of Ida Lee Harris York and Major General John Y. York, Jr. She and her two older sisters, the late Anne York Kullman and Ida Louise York Greenberg, grew up as “military brats” living in many places throughout their childhood, which Jean often described as “one big travelogue.”

Jean graduated from Greenbrier College for Women in Lewisburg, WV, at the age of 16 and then graduated with a degree in Advertising & Marketing from Indiana University in 1947 at the age of 19. At Indiana, she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority and she reigned as the 1946 Queen of the SAE fraternity.

During her time at Greenbrier, Jean met James R. Lindsey, a student at Greenbrier Military Academy. They married in 1946 and in 1948 moved to Richlands, VA, where Jean filled her Ford station wagon with the five children who now survive her: James R. Lindsey Jr., Julie Lindsey Hunsaker, Janet Lindsey Burrow, John York Lindsey, and JoAnne Lindsey Hairston.

Jean was unwavering in her support for her children, emphasizing the pursuit of academic excellence by never allowing them to miss a day of school. Nor

did she ever miss one of their games, plays, spelling bees, or sometimes terrible piano and dance recitals. She supported their interests in football, basketball, baseball, golf, cheerleading, Boy and Girl Scouts, summer camp, dancing, music, and art – all while being a chauffeur, confidante to scores of angsty teenagers, foster parent, as well as a competitive bridge player and golfer, and the Voter Registrar for the Town of Cedar Bluff. She encouraged her kids' entrepreneurial endeavors, where paper routes, bake sales, and rabbit husbandry later gave way to movie theaters, book stores, cattle farming, and other enterprises.

Following a divorce, Jean moved to Baltimore in 1975 to pursue a different life. Drawing inspiration from her own experience as a “displaced homemaker,” she began work in the non-profit sector, helping women enter or re-enter the workforce. She later worked for the Baltimore County Public Library and then joined the City of Baltimore as an employment placement specialist. Jean made great new friends and enjoyed life as what she liked to call “A Runaway Mother,” attending Orioles games, horse races, and concerts ranging from Ralph Stanley to Blue Oyster Cult.

In 1991, Jean moved to Roanoke to be closer to her five children and a growing number of grandchildren. “Grandmother” relished being near her 13 grandchildren: Lee Hunsaker, Jody Hunsaker Haller, Amanda Phillips Martinez, Sarah Phillips Blum, Matt Phillips, Lindsey York Simmons, Jimmy Lindsey, Mastin Simmons, Taylor Lindsey, John Lindsey, Katie Lindsey, Maggie Lindsey Harney, and Ellie Lindsey. Jean was a devoted grandmother, forever championing the passions and interests of each grandchild. She reveled in the commemoration of each and every milestone, traveling near and far for births, graduations, weddings, birthday parties, ball games, recitals, performances, and art openings.

“GG” was the delighted great-grandmother of 12: Grace Blum, Caroline Blum, Levi Haller, Dexter Shaffer, Silas Haller, Stella Martinez, Louisa Martinez, Boone Ratliff, Cy Phillips, Anne York Lindsey, Rêve Ratliff, and baby James Lindsey. She was also the mother-in-law and grandmother-in-law to her many

wonderful “outlaw” children, grandchildren, and partners. As the beloved matriarch of her large family, Jean taught by example the meaning of love through her indomitable perseverance, courage, humor, and appreciation of beauty and adventure.

Jean was deeply committed to a lifetime of intellectual and personal development. She had an innate and insatiable curiosity and never tired of learning. An avid consumer of news, she devoured the newspaper daily, making certain that family and friends saw informative and entertaining articles of interest. She was also a woman about town, frequenting art openings, the Grandin Theatre, LaDeDa, antique stores, Open Studios tours, concerts, restaurants, Ted Talks, Elderscholars, and Hoot & Holler, while also making time to train and volunteer as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) and to volunteer for Total Action for Progress (TAP).

She loved traveling and adventuring; art, music, fashion, spicy food, fine wine, antiques, and movies. In later years, she particularly enjoyed playing bridge and painting, and she seldom missed watching the Army-Navy football game, PGA golf tournaments, UVA or Celtics basketball games, the Kentucky Derby, or Stephen Colbert. She was a master of witty texting and maintained her ties to family and friends, especially during the long months of covid quarantine.

Jean York Lindsey, whip-smart, beautiful, and fiercely independent for almost 94 years, died July 30, 2021. In keeping with Jean's steadfast determination to keep family and friends safe and healthy, her family has made the difficult decision to postpone the September 5th Memorial Gathering due to covid concerns.

Memorial contributions may be made to The Grandin Theatre Foundation, 1310 Grandin Road SW, Roanoke, VA 24015, or designated for the CASA program of Children’s Trust, 4519 Brambleton Avenue, Suite 110, Roanoke, VA 24018

The Lindsey family would like to extend special appreciation to caregivers and special friends: Cory Hines, Melissa Ellisor, Wanda Carr, Brenda Lehrer,

Wendy Murphy, Chaplain Keith Olivier, and Dr. Bonnie Culkin.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Isla Jean York Lindsey*

January 14, 2023 at 04:24 PM



“ *Isla Jean York Lindsey*

January 14, 2023 at 02:26 PM



“ *Linda Lambert lit a candle in memory of Isla Jean York Lindsey*



**Linda Lambert** - August 31, 2021 at 09:09 AM



“ *Mike Stumpp lit a candle in memory of Isla Jean York Lindsey*



**Mike Stumpp** - August 22, 2021 at 10:19 PM

BN

“ *Bill & Vicki Nuckels lit a candle in memory of Isla Jean York Lindsey*



---

**Bill & Vicki Nuckels** - August 22, 2021 at 10:18 PM

AD

“ *Dear York and family,*

*Your mother must have been an amazing woman, and certainly lived a full life. My prayers are with all of you, and I send my heart-felt sympathies.*



---

**Anna Y. Damron** - August 22, 2021 at 07:52 AM

CR

“ *Christopher Ryan lit a candle in memory of Isla Jean York Lindsey*



---

**Christopher Ryan** - August 22, 2021 at 02:44 AM

*Hurst-Scott  
Funeral Home*

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



---

**Hurst-Scott Funeral Home** - August 20, 2021 at 11:48 AM

LA

“ Jean was such a wonderful, strong, and beautiful woman...best of all, she raised you kids to be the embodiment of her best qualities. And she would fix Julie and me French toast sometimes. We so mourn your loss...losing one's mother rips out a large chunk of our hearts and souls. Love and prayers, Lara and Tom Addison



---

**Lara Addison** - August 16, 2021 at 04:11 PM

HC

“ To the family of Mrs. Jean Lindsey, Thoughts and Prayers are with you in the passing of your loved one. She was a lovely lady and may you be comforted by your memories!  
Jerry Vencill, David Ascue, and Helen Vencill Custalow

---

**Helen Vencill Custalow** - August 11, 2021 at 10:49 AM

CC

“ Dear York and Family,  
We send our prayers for God's peace and comfort during this time. May He grant you precious memories that bring a smile to your hearts.  
Friends at CHC

---

**Community Heights Church** - August 10, 2021 at 11:44 AM

MR

“ Michele Richardson lit a candle in memory of Isla Jean York Lindsey



---

**Michele Richardson** - August 09, 2021 at 02:07 PM

AS

“ Anita J. Short lit a candle in memory of Isla Jean York Lindsey



-----  
**Anita J. Short** - August 08, 2021 at 11:19 PM

SS

“ Julie, I was sorry to hear of your mother’s passing. Wishing you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your hearts. You all are in our prayers!

-----  
**Sandra Lowe Scull** - August 08, 2021 at 01:43 PM

PF

“ Jimmy and Julie, our families go back a long way. I fondly remember visiting Granny Lindsey, my Nanny Boggess's best friend. So sorry to read of your mom's passing. Wishing you peace and wonderful memories of the lovely lady your mother was.

*Peggy Fleming*

-----  
**Peggy Fleming** - August 08, 2021 at 12:10 PM

CB

“ Charlotte Henkel Baldwin lit a candle in memory of Isla Jean York Lindsey



-----  
**Charlotte henkel baldwin** - August 07, 2021 at 08:40 PM

CR

“ Christopher Ryan Rogich lit a candle in memory of Isla Jean York Lindsey



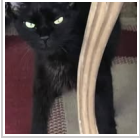
Christopher Ryan Rogich - August 07, 2021 at 05:03 PM

RS

“ Randy & Karen Smith lit a candle in memory of Isla Jean York Lindsey



Randy & Karen Smith - August 07, 2021 at 09:34 AM



“ Davie Horton lit a candle in memory of Isla Jean York Lindsey



Davie Horton - August 07, 2021 at 02:43 AM

TJ

“ Janet, thinking of the family and you at this time of loss. Just know your mother has gone home; home to a better place. I am keeping all of you in my prayers.

Tom Jessee

Tom Jessee - August 06, 2021 at 09:28 PM

AM

“ *Anita McGlothlin-Gibson lit a candle in memory of Isla Jean York Lindsey*



-----  
**Anita McGlothlin-Gibson** - August 06, 2021 at 08:44 PM



“ *TonyanEdgar Wicks lit a candle in memory of Isla Jean York Lindsey*



-----  
**TonyanEdgar Wicks** - August 06, 2021 at 04:50 PM

TM

“ *Tom And Dot McGlothlin lit a candle in memory of Isla Jean York Lindsey*



-----  
**Tom and Dot McGlothlin** - August 06, 2021 at 04:33 PM