



## Penny Sue Hopkins

August 21, 1948 - January 14, 2023

Penny Sue Hopkins, 74, of Fort Worth, Texas, passed away on Saturday, January 14, 2023.

She was born in Alton, Illinois on August 21, 1948. Penny was the firstborn of three children.

Penny graduated from Alton High School in 1966 and went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in elementary education from Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville, a Masters degree from SIUE, and 30 additional credit hours toward her specialist's degree. Penny was a member of Kappa Delta Pi. She taught third grade and fourth grade for the Alton Community Unit School District for 35 years before retiring and moving to Texas to be close to her daughter's family. Once in Texas she worked as a substitute teacher for Crowley Independent School District but spent most of her time enjoying being a grandma.

Penny and her husband were longtime members at Calvary Baptist Church of Alton, Illinois until they moved to Fort Worth, Texas where they quickly became members of Southcliff Baptist Church. Penny volunteered in many different capacities at the church including the ESL ministry, childcare, Vacation Bible School, usher at the annual singing Christmas tree, and most recently greeting those entering the church on Sunday mornings. She also attended BSF meetings and women's bible studies.

Penny married Jeffrey Lee Hopkins on June 16, 1978, in Alton Illinois. They had one child, Jennifer Sue Elder in May of 1979.

Penny Sue Hopkins is preceded in death by her parents, Gerald Anthony Stolze, Sr. and Alma Lucille Stolze.

She is survived and will be deeply missed by her husband, Jeffrey Lee Hopkins, her daughter, Jennifer Sue Elder and son-in-law Michael Leroy Elder (Keller, Texas), her six grandchildren Mollie Elizabeth Elder, Chloe Michelle Elder, Abby Sue Elder, Noah Michael Elder, Emma Caity Elder, and Drew Matthew Elder. She is also survived by her sister Cathy Stolze and brother, Tony (Sandy) Stolze of Alton, Illinois, her sisters-in-law Jill (Harvey) Young and Amy (Scott) Murray, multiple nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Visitation will be from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Friday, January 27, 2023 at Gent Funeral Home in Alton where funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, January 28, 2023. Reverend Andre' Dobson will officiate. Burial will be at Upper Alton Cemetery. Online guestbook and information may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Upper Alton Cemetery

Oakwood Avenue  
Alton, IL 62002

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JAN 27.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home Inc  
2409 State Street  
Alton, IL 62002  
(618) 466-5544  
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral

**JAN 28.** 10:30 AM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home Inc  
2409 State Street  
Alton, IL 62002  
(618) 466-5544  
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ Penny and I were longtime friends. She had a car, so we had many SIUE classes together. I'm sorry I didn't know of her passing until 9/1/23. She was also a friend to my brother John David.

Theodora Tonkinson - September 01, 2023 at 09:27 PM



“ I had Miss Stolze her first year of teaching. She was and remains my favorite teacher of all time. I'm so sorry for your loss. What a gift of a human. STACY WATKINS HEGARTY (Mark Twain Elementary, Alton, IL)

Stacy Hegarty (Watkins) - August 08, 2023 at 12:57 AM



Penny and I were longtime friends at East and AHS. I rode with her and we had several general studies classes together. I have lost track of news and obits. I'm so sorry Penny passed so soon after Christmas. I will miss her very much.

Theodora Tonkinson - September 01, 2023 at 09:23 PM



“ Penny Sue Hopkins

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ Penny Sue Hopkins

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM

YB

“ I met Penny when she was Carmen's 4th grade teacher at Lovejoy. That same year Cortney was in 1st grade with Jennifer at Lewis & Clark. Penny was always so friendly and caring. She was a wonderful teacher and mother. My thoughts and prayers are with Jeff and Jennifer and family. You will have many sweet memories to warm your hearts in the coming years. God bless you and keep you.  
Yvonne Bedwell

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**Yvonne Bedwell** - January 25, 2023 at 01:59 PM