



## Susan Garland Allison

December 28, 1961 - March 18, 2020

Susan Garland Allison, 58 of Fayetteville, Ark. passed away Wednesday March 18, 2020 in Fayetteville. She was born December 28, 1961 in Dallas, TX to Wiley and Kay (Howard) Garland.

Susan grew up in Grand Saline, Texas. She enjoyed riding horses, the beautiful countryside and being a majorette in the high school band. She also developed her writing skills under the tutelage of Mrs. Carolyn McNatt, her favorite teacher and longtime family friend.

She matriculated from Grand Saline High School to Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas, Texas. While excelling as a student at SMU, she became a Pi Beta Phi for life. She began her career as a journalist in Dallas following graduation. Susan married her husband Gordon on June 24, 1989 in Dallas, and they began their life together in Washington, D.C. It was there she learned the financial systems and software business and succeeded in managing a large office for Goal Systems International.

After Washington, Susan and Gordon moved to Little Rock where she had their first child, Gordon Jr. She joined the Junior League, enjoying the service opportunities it provided, as well as developing lifelong friendships. In her transformation from a Texan to an Arkansan, she became a dedicated Razorback fan. Susan and Gordon moved to Fayetteville several years later, where she had their second child, Garland.

Susan thrived in Fayetteville as a Home Room Mother at Root Elementary School and Alumni Advisor for the Arkansas Alpha chapter of the Pi Beta Phi sorority, helping it bring home the prestigious Balfour Cup several years in a row, all while providing a home and household where all of her sons' friends wanted to play, eat, laugh, and rest. Susan and Gordon joined Central United Methodist Church (CUMC) in 1995 and it became an integral part of their family life. Susan and Gordon had the joy and privilege of teaching first and third grade Sunday School at CUMC for many years. She also enjoyed her time as director of CUMC's Vacation Bible School and leading youth Bible study groups.

Susan actively engaged in her sons' lives as they grew, attending practices and play performances for Gordon Jr. and football, basketball and baseball practices and games for Garland, resulting in an Arkansas High School football state championship. Susan attended every Mom's Day for her sons in college, where she continued her tradition of developing new friendships. Susan (Aunt Su Su) was also adored by her nieces and nephews, who treasured their time spent with her. She was an avid dog lover and cherished Penny, Angel, and Benji.

Susan had an empathetic heart and listened to people. Everyone she spent time with had their day brightened by her warm smile. She was a loving spouse, adoring mother, grateful daughter and daughter-in-law, proud aunt and a caring sibling. Her smile, laugh, and beautiful blonde hair will be greatly missed.

She was preceded in death in by her father, Wiley Garland, III. She is survived by her husband, Gordon Young Allison Sr., sons, Gordon Young Allison, Jr of Fayetteville, Ark, and Garland Howard Allison of Norman, OK, her mother, Kay Howard Garland of Tulsa, OK, sister, Leanne Barlow of Tulsa, OK, brother, Lane Garland and wife Sundy of Grand Saline, TX, father-in-law, Cecil Duke Allison, Jr. of Pine Bluff, Ark, sister-in-law Catherine Anne Atkinson and husband Drew of Pine Bluff, Ark, nieces and nephews Caitlyn Garland of Roanoke, TX, Guyton Garland of Dallas, TX, Katherine Barlow of Tulsa, OK, Matthew Barlow of Tulsa, OK, Allison Atkinson of Little Rock, Ark, and Andrew Atkinson of Fayetteville, Ark.

Due to the ongoing coronavirus concern the family will hold a private service at Central United Methodist Church in Fayetteville on Tuesday, March 24th at 1:00 PM which will be streamed live on the church's website [www.centraltolife.com](http://www.centraltolife.com). Private burial will follow at Fairview Memorial Gardens in Fayetteville.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Central United Methodist Church, 6 West Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701 or <https://centraltolife.com> or the Pi Beta Phi Foundation for literacy. The mailing address is P.O. Box 801867, Kansas City, MO 64180 or you can give online at <https://pibetaphifoundation.org/>

To sign the online guest book please visit [www.nelsonberna.com](http://www.nelsonberna.com)

# Cemetery

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## **Fairview Memorial Gardens**

1728 East Mission

Fayetteville, AR, 72703

# Comments

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“ I was Garland's Fourth Grade teacher at Root Elementary and had the privilege of having Susan as a homeroom mother. She was awesome in every respect. I am very sad to hear of your great loss and will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers.

Susan O'Meara

**SUSAN OMEARA** - April 04 at 01:19 PM

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“ Susan was a ray of sunshine with her beautiful smile and caring heart that touched so many including my daughter Kelsie who she & Gordon taught in Sunday school at CUMC for 3 yrs! She loved those kids & they loved her! She was amazing women who loved well!

**Diane Collins** - March 28 at 01:35 AM

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“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Susan Garland Allison.



March 26 at 02:03 PM

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“ Although I haven't seen Susan in quite a few years, I always remember her as a vibrant, caring and involved woman who's smile could light up a room. My deepest condolences to you all!

**Ann Ternes Rosso** - March 25 at 11:02 AM

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“ Gordan, Gordan Jr., Garland, and family,

Our whole family watched Susan's beautiful service today. What a wonderful tribute to a beautiful woman. She lit up any room and made the people around her feel truly cared for.

We're so thankful that we got to know you guys in Park Place and that our friendship extended many years. After her service, our family talked about how we remember Susan, always smiling. She was truly one of the happiest people we knew. She had a blessed life, was a blessing to many others, and is now with Jesus. May we all live such a life! I hope you felt the love and support of many friends who were there with you in spirit today. We will miss her. Much love and prayers from the Walker family.

Doug & Heather Walker  
Abigail, Audrey, and Annie

Heather L Walker - March 24 at 08:02 PM

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“ Gordon,  
I really didn't know Susan but I remember so well our year of Disciple 2 and you had lost one of your grandmothers that year and shared your remembrance from her funeral. It was a lovely service and she was obviously a very inspiring woman. You, her sister and your boys gave a beautiful testament to a life well lived!  
Anita Phillips

Anita Greer Phillips - March 24 at 05:10 PM

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“ Truly, Susan is one of the kindest, most caring people we've ever known. Together with Gordon, she planted gospel seeds in the hearts of hundreds of children and teens over the years from 1st grade and 3rd grade Sunday School to Timothy Team to Day Camp at Mt Sequoyah to small groups in student ministries. Her ministry at Central UMC and her work within the Fayetteville community leaves a great legacy. We will miss her until we see her again one day in the Kingdom of God.

Paul and Susan Williams

susan williams - March 24 at 01:34 PM

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“ Gordon, Gordon Jr., and Garland:

Our hearts break for you on the loss of your precious wife and mother. Your family has had such a positive impact on the lives of those in the Northwest Arkansas community. You all are very loved, even by many you may have never even met. We pray for God's comfort and grace now and in the days to come.

Love and sympathy,  
Erron and Libby Smith and Family

Erron Smith - March 24 at 08:39 AM

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“ We have such fond memories of Susan and your sweet family next door to us on Revere. She was always smiling and loved her boys so much. We are so glad for our years when Alicia and Cristina and even Daniel babysat and watched Gordon and Garland grow up. Sending love and prayers for peace.

Lisa Lauve - March 24 at 12:54 AM

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“ Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Susan Garland Allison.



March 24 at 12:46 AM

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“ Fields of Europe was purchased for the family of Susan Garland Allison.



March 23 at 02:43 PM

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“ Gordon, Gordon Jr. and Garland,  
What a privilege it has been to know Susan in this life! I am eternally grateful for her commitment (and Gordon's) to teach 1st grade Sunday School! My children are the blessed benefactors of her dedication! There is no greater legacy to leave behind than that of planting seeds of faith in the hearts of children. The years of service I shared with Susan and the opportunity to grow in friendship as I had the honor of teaching Gordon Jr. and Garland are precious to me and will not be forgotten. As so many will testify, Susan's infectious laugh and kind spirit will forever be the way Susan is remembered.  
Prayerfully,  
Jill Hollis

Jill Hollis - March 23 at 02:36 PM



“ Gordon and family,  
We we shocked and saddened to hear about Susan. It has been a long time since we've you two, but Maxine and I have many fond memories involving the Allison's, both in Park Place and at the Central UM Church. We just wanted you to know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. May God Bless.  
Don and Maxine Bechtel

Don and Maxine Bechtel - March 23 at 12:58 PM

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“ Healing Tears - Yellow and White was purchased for the family of Susan Garland Allison.



March 23 at 11:55 AM

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“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Susan Garland Allison.



March 23 at 09:38 AM

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“ Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All White was purchased for the family of Susan Garland Allison.



March 23 at 07:15 AM

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“ We send our love to Gordon and the boys. Susan was an amazing lady. Getting the opportunity to serve with her in church life through the years was such a blessing to me. Her smile and laughter always brought such joy as well as, relieved tension whenever there was some. From Sunday school, VBS , and Student Life she made a great impact on the lives she encouraged. And oh how proud she was of both her boys. Susan made the world a brighter place.

Kysia Thornton - March 22 at 11:59 PM

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“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Susan Garland Allison.



March 22 at 09:31 PM

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“ Deepest sympathies for your loss. I'll remember your family in prayer.

Joseph Betz - March 22 at 08:36 PM

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“ Mark and I are shocked and saddened by Susan's passing. We on Revere are holding you all in our hearts at this time.  
The Skrockis

Kendy Skrocki - March 22 at 04:29 PM

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“ Dear Gordon, Gordon Jr., Garland and Allison Family,

We send our love to all you and will miss Susan dearly. Our family will always cherish our friendship and the ties that have bound us together through the years. Park Place Neighborhood, Root Elementary, Boys & Girls Club, Fayetteville Football and Fayetteville Junior Civic League are some of those memories that we can all reflect on while remembering Susan's sweet smile and BIG heart! We are so sorry for your loss and pray for your comfort and healing now and always.

With love always,

The Powell Family  
Mark, Elizabeth, Kailey & Taylor

Elizabeth Powell - March 22 at 03:28 PM

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“ Gordon and your sons: I only met Susan once briefly and I know from working with Gordon how tremendous and special she was as a person. Sending lots of prayers and much sympathy to you during this time. Carol Schumacher

Carol Schumacher - March 22 at 12:46 PM

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“ Susan was one of the sweetest women I know. I never saw her without that beautiful smile. She didn't know a stranger & always made everyone around her at ease. She loved God, her family & our church with all her heart, along with her friends. She lit up a room whenever she walked in. She will be missed by so many of us. To the family, I'm so sorry for your loss & I pray God will wrap you in his blanket of peace, comfort, love & understanding. Love, Nancy Burns

Nancy Burns - March 22 at 11:42 AM

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“ Susan was always a delight to be around. She lived for her family and was so supportive. When I taught her boys, she would light up the room when she came to get them. I am so very sorry to read about her passing. I would have attended the funeral. My prayers to Gordon Sr., Gordon Jr, and Garland.



Carla Pevehouse - March 22 at 10:08 AM

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“ Dear Gordon and family, So shocked and saddened to hear about Susan. Rob, Rebecca, Mom and I send heartfelt sympathy to your entire family. Love is eternal. In Him, Helen Graeber Overstreet

Helen Graeber Overstreet - March 22 at 08:07 AM

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“ I remember Susan was in the hospital at the same time as us when Our children were born. Both members of the same Church and the same schools throughout the years, we crossed paths often and I was always impressed on how she always had a smile and kind word. My favorite memory is when our families handed out Candy Canes for CUMC on the square! It afforded us time to catch up on what was happening! Mr Allison was late coming and they were all excited over a cruise planned with their family over Christmas. She had a strong impact on my daughters life serving as her group leader. She listened with a warm and loving heart and represented a Strong Faithful Woman example to her. My heart breaks for the family but please know her impact was phenomenal! The Stewart Family

Lynn Stewart - March 22 at 12:55 AM

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“ Cherished Memories - All White was purchased for the family of Susan Garland Allison.



March 21 at 08:49 PM

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“ Su-Su told me the story over and over growing up and again recently ... “I just had a feeling. I called your mom’s home number from the church telephone. When she didn’t answer, I KNEW, I knew you were on the way! Soon after you were born and I became your Su-Su!” I loved hearing her tell stories of my mom. She told me in July before my wedding, “Wear red to Vegas! Your mother always said a lady should wear red!” Then she sent me a pic of my mom with my Dad, K-K, Wiley , Delores, and Murray. Mom was in red!

I’ll never forget going to SMU to visit her. I was just in the First Grade. I had the best time and felt so grown up! I continued to visit after college, and stayed with her at her condo in Dallas! She and Penny (the dog) and I had the best times! We went on walks, for Chinese, yogurt, movies (Dirty Dancing! Lane was upset with her for taking me to such “grown-up” movie lol)... I always felt grown up hanging with my “big sis!” I admired her nails (K-K told my mom the girls have beautiful nails because she pushed their cuticles back as babies!), her clothes , her beautiful handbags, her highlighted hair, her cars!! I used to watch her James Avery Dangle rings why she shifted gears ! I looked up to her so much , but more than anything it was the Christian lady , who was raised to pray and read verses, who always made me feel special, even after years went by and we didn’t see each other as much. I could keep sharing memories,.. like how I was her twirling teams little mascot in high school ! I even got to wear matching uniforms!! It was the best!

This past fall, I visited Su-Su and Gordon in Fayetteville. We had a few hours together

just the two of us. It reminded me of the days we would drink Diet Pepsi and watch tv/movies in our pj's! I told her all of my stories and she shared some too. I wish I could've said goodbye and my heart is just broken.  
Thank you for being an angel to me my Su-Su. I pray you will continue to watch over us from above. I love you.  
-Mary Susan



Mary Susan McNatt Pennington - March 21 at 06:59 PM

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“ Please know that we are keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers.  
With love 'Steve, Stefanie, and Nate Schumacher



stefanie schumacher - March 21 at 06:58 PM

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“ Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White was purchased for the family of Susan Garland Allison.



March 21 at 03:37 PM

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“ Simply Lily was purchased for the family of Susan Garland Allison.





“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Susan Garland Allison.



March 20 at 08:44 PM

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“ I'm so sorry to hear of Susan's passing. We both played flute in the Grand Saline High School Band and sat by each other my entire freshman (her senior) year. Such fond memories of our band days! She was always smiling and often goofy and that made it even more fun! Leanne, my thoughts are especially with you at this time. Such a sweet family I had the privilege of being around because of band, tennis with Leanne, and Mrs. Garland driving us to tournaments. Love to all!

Claudia Koonce Bell

**Claudia Bell** - March 20 at 07:15 PM

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“ Sympathy Arrangement In Basket (Large) - Pink & White was purchased for the family of Susan Garland Allison.



March 20 at 04:58 PM

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“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Susan Garland Allison.



March 20 at 04:20 PM



“ In Comfort and Peace was purchased for the family of Susan Garland Allison.



March 20 at 04:13 PM

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“ Shades of Purple was purchased for the family of Susan Garland Allison.



March 20 at 03:56 PM