



Geraldine "Geri" (Rucker) Lewis

May 3, 1935 - January 15, 2026

Geraldine "Geri" (Rucker) Lewis
Greenville, South Carolina

Geraldine "Geri" (Rucker) Lewis, 90, of Greenville, SC passed away of natural causes on January 15, 2026.

The beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend was born May 3, 1935, in Knoxville, TN, the daughter of Wilson and Jessie L. (Cox) Rucker. She lived much of her childhood in the Smoky Mountains, later returning to Knoxville. Geri attended Bearden and Knoxville East High School, where she was a cheerleader and lead majorette.

In 1953, she married Kenneth E. Lewis of Knoxville; they were together until his passing in March of 2014. Kenneth was a career soldier, so Geri moved frequently, leaving a trail of joy and love in towns and military bases across the U.S.A. and throughout the world.

After retirement from the U.S. Army, they settled for many years in the Atlanta, GA area. There, Geri enjoyed a long career in the hospitality industry, most notably with Holiday Inn, where she served as Catering Manager for their Jonesboro, GA and downtown Atlanta properties.

Geri spent her final years in Clemson and Greenville, SC.

Over the years, Geri worked as a model, dental assistant, youth activities director, restaurant hostess, real estate manager, youth activities director, and hotel catering manager. But the role she most cherished was that of mother. She was deeply devoted to her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Geri was also an unofficial second mother to neighborhood young people wherever she lived, often working tirelessly on their behalf.

Among her many interests, Geri wrote poetry, loved dancing, and was a huge fan of music, especially country. To the end, she was often more attuned to the latest hits than many teenagers.

Mrs. Lewis is survived by her daughter, Penny Lisa and her husband, Robert Mussro of Greenville, SC; son, Kenneth Byron and his wife, Kimberly Cable of Boston, MA; son Temple Dudley, and his wife, Cynthia Jenkins of Locust Grove, GA; grandchildren, Jaimie Meeks, Daniel Lewis, Jessica Mussro, Angelina Hong, Gabriella Lewis, and Caroline Zetino; and great-grandson, Easton Meeks.

There will be a private memorial service for the family. Please leave condolences and memories at [legacy.com](https://www.legacy.com).

Mountain View Funeral Home is serving the Lewis family.

Tribute Wall

KA

“Geraldine "Geri" Lewis, the beautiful young woman that appeared in the doorway of my sixth grade classroom with her pretty daughter, is gone now. We will all miss her.

She was dressed head to toe and a stylish outfit. Yellow like sunshine. Terry Skinner, who lived around the corner from me and sat near me and the class said, "That's a mom???" She was gorgeous and her pretty daughter, soon to be our classmate, had long, thick, blonde hair and was wearing a pink sweater dress. Her name was Penny and we soon became best friends. I've visited at her house often and was always treated like family. Mrs. Lewis introduced me to my first Cornish hen. A whole little chicken on my plate. She curled my hair one night and instructed me how to iron "the correct way". She was always kind and personable. She loved her children and was not only present in their life, but wanted to be intricately involved in it.

Her pretty daughter penny and I have been best friends for 59 years now. She is every bit as hospitable as her mother was and just as involved in her own children's lives. I look forward to as many more years as best friends as the Lord provides us. A cup she gave me reads,

"A good friend knows all of your crazy stories. A best friend has lived them with you."

As we miss and honor Ms. Lewis today, I think she would want us to treat everyone kindly and find a loved one or friend and give them a hug.

Karen Austin

Karen Austin - January 27 at 04:12 PM

JR

“ In the early '80s I made a stop over heading to Spring Training in FL. I had 4 or 5 of my buddies in tow. Geri insisted on making breakfast for us we had a little layover and Kenneth picked us up at the airport. Well this breakfast was a spectacular southern spread that my friends talk about today! Love this family to pieces we became lifelong friends starting in Darmstadt Germany in the 1960's. RIP Geri and give mom a big hug & kiss for me ❤️

Jim Ronan - January 20 at 11:40 AM

KG

“ Geri was my mothers best friend, She became more than a friend to me. I will miss her so much .

Kim Gearin - January 19 at 03:14 PM

PE

“ 21 files added to the album Mom Across the Years...



Penny - January 18 at 07:34 PM

DA

“ Even in old age, she always felt like a pillar of strength to me, or at least the source of my own. No matter how much time passed, or how many mistakes and bad decisions I made, she was the only one who never looked at me or spoke to me any differently.

Her loving presence was such a powerful force that, in my mind, she felt almost invincible. For me, the space left by her passing is as big as the world itself. Still, I have no doubt that she is at peace and overjoyed to be reunited with all the loved ones who left before her. I am glad for that, because I know she missed them dearly, just as I will miss her.

True unconditional love, like the love she gave to me and the rest of her family, is a rare and beautiful thing. I feel very fortunate for the abundance she gave me throughout my life. It's something I think very few people ever get to experience, or even believe exists.

She was, and will always remain, the source of all that is good in me. I am confident that I would not even closely resemble who I am now if not for her influence.

Danny - January 18 at 06:08 PM

TE

“ Dear Lord, thank you for Geri. Thank you for the many years that she was so kind to me and loved on me, when I couldn't even love myself. And for all the many fun times and Laughter we shared like little school girls.

Thank you for her family that was able to love me unconditionally. Lord I pray that you will comfort them all in this time of loss. Thank you Lord, for receiving her up to heaven to where she can be with Ken and not be in any more pain. She'll bring everybody in heaven much joy. Amen

Teresa - January 18 at 06:04 PM

PE

“ My mom was the only person I ever wanted to be like. She was beautiful inside and out. She was the mom everyone wished they had. And although she would've been the first to tell you that she wasn't perfect, she was the perfect mom for me.

There are not words to adequately describe the relationship we had with each other and with Jessie. It was very special. Often, in these later years, she would swear she heard or saw Jessie or daddy or some other dear friend who died before her. I tried not to contradict her. Who knows how thin the veil is between earth and heaven. But I did tell her on occasion that one day she would go to sleep and wake up and Jessie would be there. That day has come. I will always love her and miss her but I wouldn't wish her back. Penny

Penny - January 17 at 04:36 PM

KH

Such a beautiful tribute. Thank you for bringing her to us through your love for her.

Kathy Hill

Kathy Hill - January 18 at 08:46 AM

CC

“ Over the many years that I had the pleasure of knowing Geri, each encounter demonstrated her welcoming heart and loving concern for all. She spoke so fondly of her children and grandchildren; they were immeasurably important to her. May the Lord bring comfort to each one of you as you remember her and adjust to her passing.

Christine Custer - January 17 at 03:05 PM

BM

“ True to her life's walk, Geri loved and accepted without measure. They say you marry the family, as well as the spouse, and for me I married 'up' emotionally. From our first meeting to last hug, Geri welcomed me unconditionally, and unchangingly, into the family; is there anything more precious?

Bob Mussro - January 17 at 12:13 PM