



Prudence Ann (Brainard) Penney

March 30, 1938 - October 31, 2023

Our families 'Force of Nature' Prudence Ann (Brainard) Penney, 85, passed quietly October 31, 2023, in St. George, Utah. Born March 30, 1938, to Ford Brainard and Irene Lewis in Ann Arbor, Michigan, 'Prudy' is the mother of Robb Penney, Polly Barbe, Scott Penney & Peggy Armour with each child inheriting her stubborn nature, independence and zest for life. She also has 12 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren who all adored their fun loving 'Nana-Penney'. Prudy grew up in Ypsilanti, Michigan in a tight knit family which included her grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers and all her friends with whom she stayed in touch and her last gathering of those friends was attending the 70th Class reunion of Ypsilanti High, class of '56.

Prudy was preceded by her husband of 62 years, Gary Penney, and knowing Gary he was waiting for her with the question 'What took you so long?' Yeah, they were those people. They were always 'those people'. Wherever they went they made friends and had fun. When Gary retired, they traveled the country. Wherever they set up their motor home for a 'stay', Prudy would get out the portable 'Penney's mailbox', her seasonal plastic goose (that she would dress for the season or holiday), put up their flagpole and of course then get to know everyone staying in their campground, motor home park and local LDS church. For years her Christmas card list was a cross section of America with all the people they met and would stay in touch with... and they all knew it was from Prudy because of her distinct stylized handwritten Gothic

lettering.

When her youngest child was in junior high, 1982, Prudy decided it was time to pursue her ultimate goal and enroll in nursing school. It was her dream. When she received her nursing certificate, she started taking care of people and became a traveling nurse for older patients at home. She became particularly adept at taking care of older people and those in hospice care because she always treated them with respect and like they were just regular people living their lives, not sick or debilitated but with the same zest for life she had. Families would specifically request her because she made a difference in the care & life quality of their loved ones. In the care facility that she and Gary lived in she would still ask the staff how she could help and take care of the people living there.

Prudy wasn't a 'like it' kind of a person; when she did something she was 'all in', whether making Christmas goodies for her family, volunteering to run the women's groups charity drive to help female prison inmates by making stuffed animals to sell for donations, making her family all dress in the same clothes for Christmas or the semiannual water fights that would start with a glass of water and end with full pans of water and garden hoses. If she didn't start it, it was likely she'd finish it! And it was a rare thing to see her without her ubiquitous glass of diet Pepsi, she should have had stock in the company.

She loved to read, and she taught herself to play the piano. She loved Christmas and she loved family. She would especially make sure that all her relatives, no matter how far flung, knew they were Family, always welcome and loved... and not above letting family know when they were not being 'family' enough for each other.

We will miss her infectious enthusiasm, her rambunctious nature, her water 'lust' (get her anywhere near a body of water i.e., lake, ocean, river, pool and

she had to get in), her bold determination, her cut throat cribbage games (she got that from her father Ford) and her compassion... she was a 'force of nature', and we love her and miss her.

Tribute Wall

LT

“ We loved both Gary and Prudy! They were our best friends for many years, and we have many good memories of time spent with them. We miss them so much, but are so glad that they are together in heaven and we will see them again some day. Love, Jerry and Lorraine Timmerman

Lorraine Timmerman - November 15, 2023 at 01:00 PM

HG

“ Will miss you and Gary very much. But I know your dancing up in heaven.
Love you
Heather (Meadows Aide)

Heather Garcia - November 14, 2023 at 08:16 PM

SP

“ We so loved Prudy. Her way of making us feel so loved and welcome. We always looked forward to the visits from her and Gary. And loved our visits with them. We send our love to all of you. I know she will be very missed. Sending our love. Bob and Sylvia Purdy

Sylvia Pursy - November 14, 2023 at 07:22 PM

GK

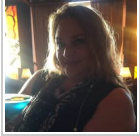
We loved Gary and Prudy. We had hours of fun with them. Never a dull moment. Prudy was always a friend when you needed one. I'm so glad that she was a part of our life. Love her and all of her funny cards. She cheered me up many times Always made things better. A rare person and a joy to be around. One in a million. Love to family. Gwen Kempner

Gwen Kempner - November 15, 2023 at 09:56 AM

AB

Purdy was always sensitive to the needs of others. When Pam and I would visit we felt loved and appreciated. She will be missed, but we know that Gary is with her now. ❤️

Alan Bassett - November 16, 2023 at 05:24 PM



“ I am so very sorry for you Robb, Polly, Scott and Peggy. Prudy was “a force to be reckoned with”! She was so full of life, laughter and especially LOVE for her family. How many times did we hear the story of her and “Freddy” (my dad) taking off their Sunday clothes to swim in the creek at the farm, because they weren’t supposed to get their clothes dirty😭. I think they were 5 and 7 ish? Prudy made everyone feel like family with her big generous personality! I am so very grateful I was a part of that! At different times spending precious time with Peggy, Polly, Scott and Robb at different times in my life and getting to know each of you is a blessing! (And with Prudy’s other “daughter” Terri Deck!). You all mean the world to me. I will see you in Heaven my dear Prudy with a big hug and kiss❤️

Lynnea Lewis - November 14, 2023 at 06:41 PM