



## Julia Ann Burgen

April 11, 1934 - October 3, 2023

### Julia Ann Sanford Burgen

Julia Ann was born April 11, 1934 to parents Robert and Julia Sanford. Julia lived in Cisco, Abilene, El Paso, and Dallas, Texas, growing up with her younger siblings, Robert and Connie. After graduation from Hillcrest High School in 1951, Julia attended Southern Methodist University where she was elected to join Phi Beta Kappa, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in History in 1956. That same year, she married Jack Gilbert Burgen. Together, they had three daughters, Judy Aschner (husband Henry), Jenny Chapman (Barry), and Jackie Chase (Bob), six grandchildren (Erin, Eric, Jane, Austin, Katie, and Emma), and three great grandchildren (Liam, Sarah, and Henry). After the early years of child-rearing, Julia began a lifelong commitment to environmental preservation in North Texas, beginning with the Texas Committee on Natural Resources. She was a key part of the Arlington Conservation Council and the MPAC Women's Political Action Committee, as well as actively supporting numerous other groups and causes. During this time, she also earned a Master of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Texas at Arlington, focusing on education and science. Her tireless work to develop greenspace to effectively accommodate flooding along Johnson Creek in Arlington was successful after years of effort, and recognized by her receipt of the Sierra Club 1995 Environmentalist of the Year award for the State of Texas, and the naming of Julia Burgen Park by the City

of Arlington. Her work is evidenced today by beautiful linear parkland protecting homes from the floodplain and providing important natural habitat. Julia's dedication and effectiveness was recognized by numerous awards, including the Texas Recreation and Parks Society Individual Award in 1989, the Southwest Region of National Recreation and Park Association Award in 1989, Arlington AAUW Outstanding Woman of the Year in 1994, the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence in 1995, the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club Evelyn Edens Award in 1996, the League of Women Voters of Texas Individual Award for Excellence in Environmental Awareness in 1996, the Arlington-Star Telegram Woman of the Year in 1996, and the National Delta Gamma Shield Award in 2011. A successful run for Arlington City Council in 1997 led to three terms of service on the Council, from 1997 until 2003, when she decided to step down, though Julia continued serving on the planning and zoning commission and the parks bond committee for several years. She remained dedicated to preservation of habitat and ecosystems throughout her life. Julia enjoyed all manner of traveling, from international trips to backpacking adventures (with a special love for Yosemite and Colorado), and she was a talented educator, particularly of the young, on the wonders and value of nature. Julia was preceded in death by Jack, her beloved husband of 64 years. His loss and that of their wooded home in Arlington, overlooking a creek, caused great grief for her. The family appreciates the care of the compassionate people at Grandbrook Memory Care in Garland, and Anchor of Hope Hospice for helping our mother during this time. This difficult recent period cannot overshadow the happy and purpose-filled life Julia led. Her intelligence and drive made a positive difference for the environment and wildlife of the North Texas area, she educated and inspired innumerable children and adults about the natural world, and she was a devoted and loving wife, mother, sister, grandmother, and friend. Her goodness lives on in the native wildflowers, flocks of Canada Geese, and migrating Monarch butterflies found in the patchwork of wild, natural places in the metroplex, and in the hearts of us that love her. In lieu of

flowers, consider donating to the pollinator garden project at Julia Burgen Park, Arlington, Texas through Green Arlington Foundation, P.O. Box 264, Arlington, TX 76004-0264, referencing Pollinator Patch in JBP.

The Family of Julia Burgen kindly requests that no flowers be sent to funeral, please make a donation in her name to the Green Arlington Foundation.

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service for Julia Ann Sanford Burgen

OCT **9**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Restland Memorial Park  
13005 Greenville Ave.  
Dallas, TX 75243

# Tribute Wall



“ *Distinctive Life Cremation and Funeral Services created a Webcast in memory of Julia Ann Burgen*



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**Distinctive Life Cremation and Funeral Services** - October 09, 2023 at 05:26 PM

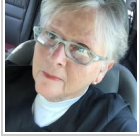


“ *Distinctive Life Cremation and Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Julia Ann Burgen*



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**Distinctive Life Cremation and Funeral Services** - October 06, 2023 at 05:01 PM



“ Jackie, Judy, Jenny. What a lovely obituary. It so captures a life well lived. Life of first a friend, though our neighborhood Methodist Church in the late 60s. Then as a teacher in that church's preschool where my youngest learned of water, wind, sunrises and sunsets, birds, plants, and the forever ongoingness of Creation. Then as members of an adult class there where Jack and Julia introduced me to Teilhard de Chardin's work. Then spending days with Julia in her Arlington nature sanctuary of a home. Finally, her greatest gift to me was identifying for me the birdsong of the painted bunting when she visited me in Colorado County. Every April, when they arrive and begin their calls, I think of Julia. Her life graced mine.



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**Leah King** - October 07, 2023 at 09:09 AM



“ [https://www.arlingtontx.gov/news/my\\_arlington\\_t\\_x/news\\_stories/julia\\_burgen\\_legacy](https://www.arlingtontx.gov/news/my_arlington_t_x/news_stories/julia_burgen_legacy)

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**jackie chase** - October 06, 2023 at 08:14 PM

SC

“ Julia was an exceptional woman of grace and commitment to causes to protect and enhance nature. I had the honor of sharing a city council office with her when I was first elected. She inspired me, mentored me, and educated me and we became dear friends. Her invaluable service to the Arlington community and to the State of Texas cannot be overstated. MPAC is one of many organizations of which Julia was a member. In her memory, MPAC will be planting a tree in Arlington's Julia Burgen Park.

*Julia was an intelligent woman and a force for nature and could not be ignored. I will miss her greatly.*

*Sheri Capehart*

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**Sheri Capehart** - October 05, 2023 at 02:16 PM

JC

*Thank you Sheri. I know she cherished your friendship as well and I know well how many hours you two would spend on projects. Thank you for your friendship and support of my mom. The MPAC gift of the tree is so very kind. Jackie*

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**Jackie Burgen Chase** - October 06, 2023 at 12:40 AM

GD

“ Please accept our condolences on Julia's passing; she was a hero to many of us in the Arlington environmental community and will always be someone to emulate as we continue to struggle with widespread indifference to natural systems.

*Earlier this year a group of neighbors from my Central Arlington District 5, which Julia represented on our city council for two terms, applied for and received a \$500 MonarchWatch grant to design, install, and maintain a 30' x 40' pollinator garden within the city park that bears her name. To date the site has been prepped and we've bought many plants and seeds pending cooler weather for planting/sowing, but we are still facing the purchase of hoses, wheelbarrow and hand tools in addition to topsoil and compost -- and probably a small shed with lock to store it all -- and our grant funds are nearly exhausted. The plot is 30' x 40', so any donations to accomplish our goal would be most welcome.*

*Please direct donors to:*

*Green Arlington Foundation  
P.O. Box 264  
Arlington, TX 76004-0264*

*and reference "Pollinator Patch in JBP."*

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**Grace Darling** - October 04, 2023 at 08:28 PM

JC

*Thank you Grace. We think this is such a nice project for the park and thank you for your work to make it happen.*

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**Jackie Burgen Chase** - October 06, 2023 at 12:40 AM