



Suella May Robinson Wolfe

April 14, 1947 - September 28, 2025

Suella May Robinson Wolfe was born in Pulaski, Virginia on April 14, 1947 and passed away peacefully on September 28, 2025 at Roanoke Memorial Hospital, surrounded by her close friends and family. She was the beloved daughter of Thelma Allen and Elmer “Bud” Robinson, and the cherished sister of Kay Welch. Suella and Kay had the great fortune of growing up in a close-knit family compound, surrounded by their grandparents, aunt, and many cousins—an upbringing that fostered not only her deep sense of family but also the grit and strong work ethic that defined her throughout her life.

Suella graduated from Pulaski High School in 1965. The following year, she began her long career at Virginia Tech as a secretary in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Over the decades, her dedication, skill, and steady presence carried her into the role of Grants Program Administrative Supervisor, a position she held until her retirement in 2003. However, Suella’s retirement was short-lived, and she quickly returned part-time to contribute to various projects before fully retiring in 2019.

This will not come as a surprise to those who had the pleasure of knowing Suella. Her persistence was instilled in her at an early age and that determination was exhibited in every aspect of her life. From spending each summer cultivating her beloved tomato plants even in her declining health, to facilitating the Helping Hands drive at GraceLife Baptist Church, Suella was

devoted to serving her family, her community, and Christ right up until her passing.

Suella passed in the way that all of us hope to; embraced by the hands of her loving family and lifelong friends, bathed in the sound of the hymns and gospel songs that she cherished, as she passed on to her eternal home. To those who she left behind, classifying her loss is an impossible task. She was never just an acquaintance or co-worker. To each person that knew her, she was both a friend and a sister, a mother and a teacher. All who were blessed to have known Suella are now left with the immeasurable task of living in her footsteps, but are reassured by her unwavering faith that she will harbor them in her heart as they strive to do right by their families and communities before they are returned to her.

Suella was preceded in death by her parents, Thelma Allen and Elmer Robinson, and her cousin H. L. Sutphin. She is survived by her husband Richard "Barry" Wolfe, daughter Melody Wolfe, her two grandchildren Fiona and Beckett Wolfe Thomas, as well as her sister Kay Welch. She is also survived by her cousins; Senita Haga and Jane Umberger, as well as numerous others from Virginia to Tennessee. Her memory also remains with her lifelong friends; Betty Green and Diane Kegley.

A celebration of Suella's life will be held on Wednesday, October 1st at GraceLife Baptist Church in Christiansburg, VA. Visitation will be held at 10am followed by a service at 11am and luncheon at noon. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to the Helping Hands program at GraceLife Baptist Church. Monetary donations can be mailed year-round to the attention finance office at GraceLife, P.O. Box 701 Christiansburg, VA 24068. Donations of non-perishable food items, clothing, and toys can be brought to the church when the Helping Hands drive commences in August.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 1. 10:00 AM (ET)

Grace Life Baptist Church
1640 Peppers Ferry Rd NW
Christiansburg, VA 24073

Celebration of Life

OCT 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

Grace Life Baptist Church
1640 Peppers Ferry Rd NW
Christiansburg, VA 24073

Luncheon

OCT 1. 12:00 PM (ET)

Grace Life Baptist Church
1640 Peppers Ferry Rd NW
Christiansburg, VA 24073

Tribute Wall



“ *Suella was extended family that I looked up to in my formative years. She always had a smile and a kind word for me. The world needs more of that; she did her part.
Kay, my prayers go out to you and Suella’s family.*

Carol Lesko - October 05, 2025 at 08:50 PM

ST

“ *Barry - my thoughts are with you and our shared family as we say goodbye to a wonderful person. Sue was always kind and generous to us all even as she dealt with the myriad activities that kept her mind and body active. She had a love of family, neighbor and community that was truly exemplary for those around her. I know that family and friends, Sue’s example and God’s grace will grant you the strength to carry on in her honor and may her fortitude and selflessness be an example to us all.*

*With love.
Sean Thomas*

Sean Thomas - October 01, 2025 at 07:33 AM

RP

“ *Suella always greeted everyone with a big smile each Sunday at GraceLife. Her love for serving Jesus was so evident, and her servant feet and hands will be missed. I look forward to continuing our conversations in beautiful Heaven one day soon. I’m thankful and blessed to have known sweet Suella. God bless Barry, Melody and her family.*

Rhonda Phillips - September 30, 2025 at 09:48 PM

DD

“ I

My condolences to Barry and the entire Wolfe family. I knew Suella through Gracelife. She was a lovely and amazing person! I always saw how involved she was at Helping Hands, she had a wonderful serving heart. I will miss her so, I do rejoice that she is in the arms of her wonderful Savior!

Debbie Dunham

Debbie Dunham - September 30, 2025 at 08:08 PM

AE

“

Barry, Family and Many Friends, I was very sadden and shocked to hear of Suella's passing. I always looked forward to see you both every Sunday.I know that she is with Jesus and never ever suffer any more! Heaven is what we live for and she was faithful and completed her earthly journey. We will be praying for God's comfort for you and family! I will continue to see you at church and please let me know how I can help in any way. Andy and Kathy

Andy Eames - September 30, 2025 at 07:55 PM

SU

“

She was such amazing lady,I am going to miss her keeping me updated on her family.she was a Godly woman. God bless her family



susan - September 30, 2025 at 06:30 PM



“ *Linda Cole lit a candle in memory of Suella May Robinson Wolfe*



Linda Cole - September 30, 2025 at 06:01 PM

AP

“ *I knew suella for a number of years she was a wonderful person prayers for her family during this difficult time ann poff*

Ann poff - September 30, 2025 at 04:27 PM

JP

“ *What a lovely person!! We corresponded when her beloved sister Kay was ill. She loved Kay so much, and wanted to help ease Kay's rehab. Such a caring person. J Proko*

jennifer Proko - September 30, 2025 at 04:25 PM

SY

“ *My condolences to the family. I worked with Sue in the CALS Dean's suite. She was always kind and helpful to everyone. She will be missed. Sheila (Norman) Young*

Sheila Young - September 30, 2025 at 03:08 PM

DT

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I only knew Suella thru FB. See help me a lot telling me things about my families history I could tell right away she was a wonderful person wish I could have met her. Sorry again Donna Allen Thomas*

Donna Thomas - September 30, 2025 at 02:03 PM