



Linda Frances Shelton Rice

September 29, 1951 - October 21, 2025

Linda Frances Shelton Rice, 74, of Altavista died Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at Runk & Pratt of Forest. She was the wife of Jerry Lee Rice for fifty-three years.

She was born September 29, 1951, in Chatham, a daughter of Belvodean Crocker Shelton of Troy, IL and the late Leewood Shelton. Linda was a dedicated and passionate educator. Her various roles in Campbell County spanned over 35 years. Her career included being a fourth-grade teacher and Title I reading specialist while at Altavista Elementary School, working as a resource teacher in the administration building, being an assistant principal at William Campbell, and serving as principal at Gladys Elementary School. She served as a JV basketball coach at Altavista High School early in her career and often spent summers tutoring students. Linda truly shined during her time at Gladys Elementary School, serving as the proud principal for many years. There is no way to count the number of lives she touched during her varied roles in education. She was respected and loved and will be remembered fondly.

She found great joy in traveling and sightseeing, particularly enjoying scenic drives through the countryside with her husband, Jerry. During retirement, Jerry and Linda drove, flew, and cruised to destinations and always enjoyed their time together. Linda loved spending time at the beach with her family

during summers. Her greatest happiness came from spending time with her beloved grandchildren.

In addition to her husband and mother, she is survived by two daughters, Beth Rice Shelton of Forest and Jenny Rice Powell and her husband, Josh of Evington; one sister, Celia Stern and her husband, Tim of Troy, IL; four grandchildren, Madelyn, Claire, Jay and Jordan; Bryan Shelton, father to Madelyn and Claire; a host of nieces and nephews; her sister-in-law who considered her a true sister, Joey Ann Hudson; and her dearest lifelong friend, Janet West. The family would like to send a special thank you to Teresa Russell and Janet West who helped Jerry care for Linda in the home during her battle with dementia.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date. The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 7:30 p.m., Saturday, October 25, 2025, at Finch & Finch Funeral and Cremation Service, Altavista.

The family suggests that those wishing to make memorials consider the Alzheimer's Association, 1010 Ednam Center, Suite 203, Charlottesville, VA 22903.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **25**. 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Finch and Finch, Altavista
809 Main St.
Altavista, VA 24517

Tribute Wall



“ *Finch & Finch, Inc. Funeral & Cremation Service created a Tribute Video in memory of Linda Frances Shelton Rice*



Finch & Finch, Inc. Funeral & Cremation Service - October 25, 2025 at 01:21 PM

EW

“ *I remember Mrs rice from school .She used to come help me during summer school at my mother's house. She was such a wonderful person.Mr.Rice was my gym teacher in school back in 1970 to 80s.I was just asking a friend of mine if they still lived in the brick house near the school I have been wanting to see them .and My friend Margaret who I told that to told me today about Linda I am so sorry to hear this Jerry .*



Elaine Winston wright - October 27, 2025 at 02:57 PM

DD

“ *So very sorry to hear of your loss, prayers*

Debbie Daniel - October 25, 2025 at 06:58 PM

EC

“ *Ellyn Cox lit a candle in memory of Linda Rice*



Ellyn Cox - October 24, 2025 at 07:46 PM

AM

“ *To Mr. Rice and family, I am so sorry to hear about your loss. Please accept my deepest condolences. My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time. Wishing you peace and comfort in the days ahead.*



Amy Sellick McFeeley - October 24, 2025 at 02:03 PM

JP

“ *Johnny Parker lit a candle in memory of Linda Rice*



Johnny Parker - October 24, 2025 at 07:13 AM

DM

“ *Donacaroline M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Linda Frances Shelton Rice.*

Donacaroline M. - October 23, 2025 at 05:21 PM

HM

“ Jerry & Family, I am so sorry to hear about Linda's passing.
May precious memories help bring you peace during this difficult
time.
Hilda Moore Morcom

Hilda Moore Morcom - October 23, 2025 at 03:22 PM

JG

“ Judy Bowman Guthrie lit a candle in memory
of Linda Rice



Judy Bowman Guthrie - October 23, 2025 at 01:33 PM

KF

“ Kimberly French lit a candle in memory of
Linda Rice



Kimberly French - October 23, 2025 at 12:05 PM

PV

“ Paul and Jean VanKerckhove lit a candle in
memory of Linda Rice



Paul and Jean VanKerckhove - October 23, 2025 at 10:33 AM

YB

“ *May God bless and comfort you and your family during this most difficult time.*



Y. Burns - October 23, 2025 at 09:48 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Linda Frances Shelton Rice.*



October 23, 2025 at 09:43 AM

RH

“ *Jerry and family, I am so very sorry to hear of Linda's passing....we were friends in high school and then roommates at Longwood for 3 1/2 years and I have so many fun memories of our time together... sending prayers and deepest sympathy for your loss...
Rita Hall*

Rita Hall - October 23, 2025 at 09:42 AM

AG

“ *Angie Gledhill lit a candle in memory of Linda Rice*



Angie Gledhill - October 23, 2025 at 08:40 AM

TH

“ *Tammie J. Hodges sent a virtual gift in memory of Linda Rice*



Tammie J. Hodges - October 23, 2025 at 08:22 AM

AH

“ *She was my principal at Gladys Elementary School so sorry to hear this ..Love and prayers to the family*



Akeiba Holloway - October 23, 2025 at 02:10 AM



“ *Jerry, I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. My thoughts are with you and your family.*



Vicki Hoskins - October 22, 2025 at 11:25 PM



“ *Coach Rice, you and your precious wife hold a special place in my heart. I'm deeply sorry for your loss.
Kelly Shelton (SHERWOOD!!! as you yelled out often across the basketball court!) love ya coach!
Deepest sympathies to the family*



Kelly Shelton - October 22, 2025 at 09:12 PM

EP

“ *Eddie Puckette lit a candle in memory of Linda Rice*



Eddie Puckette - October 22, 2025 at 08:31 PM

DD

“ *Jerry, Ed let us know of Linda's passing. I can't remember a time even in high school that you and Linda were not together. It breaks my heart that you have lost your life partner. Love and prayers from Dunn and Carrie Dillard.*

Dunn Dillard - October 22, 2025 at 07:55 PM

CS

“ *Cindy Stewart lit a candle in memory of Linda Rice*



Cindy Stewart - October 22, 2025 at 06:56 PM

BB

“ *Prayers for Jerry Dean and family .*

Bud Brown - October 22, 2025 at 05:05 PM

BB

“ *Prayers for Jerry and family . May she rest in peace .*

Bud Brown - October 22, 2025 at 04:54 PM

LM

“ Linda Gray Manis lit a candle in memory of Linda Rice



Linda Gray Manis - October 22, 2025 at 04:39 PM

TP

“ My condolences goes out to Mr. Rice and family. Mrs. Rice was such a sweet lady . She gave me a job opportunity at Gladys Elementary School and I will forever be grateful. God Bless you all!



Teresa Patrick - October 22, 2025 at 04:18 PM

BG

“ Jerry and family - Bill and I are so sorry to hear of Linda's passing. We know you have a hole in your heart. May God comfort you during this difficult time. We miss yall in the neighborhood. Blessings as you navigate life.

Bill & Betty Gillespie - October 22, 2025 at 03:46 PM

SA

“ So sorry to hear about this. Mrs. Rice was my 4th grade teacher at Altavista. I can remember the exact room/seat in her class, hear her voice telling me to sit back down when Vincent Myers and I were clowning around, and always keeping us focused on the lesson. She was a wonderful teacher making a positive impact on many kids. Condolences and Prayers. My mom (Sarah Adams) was/ a teacher at William Campbell and sends her condolences. Stephen Adams

Stephen Adams - October 22, 2025 at 03:19 PM

LJ

“ Love, Mom, Celia, Tim, Sara, Brandon, Jeremy purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Linda Frances Shelton Rice.



Love, Mom, Celia, Tim, Sara, Brandon, Jeremy - October 22, 2025 at 03:01 PM

LJ

“ Love, Mom, Celia, Tim, Sara, Brandon, Jeremy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Linda Frances Shelton Rice.

Love, Mom, Celia, Tim, Sara, Brandon, Jeremy - October 22, 2025 at 03:01 PM

LG

“ I worked with Linda at Altavista Elementary, her room was near mine. She was so kind to me when I arrived at the school. We had so much fun together! Her girls and Jerry were the loves of her life. Prayers of strength to all of you.
Linda Grubba



Linda Grubba - October 22, 2025 at 02:49 PM

RD

“ She was my fourth grade teacher at AES.



Rhonda DeVercelly - October 22, 2025 at 02:42 PM

SO

“ Jerry I am so very sorry to hear of Linda's passing.

Shirley Orrell - October 22, 2025 at 02:23 PM

VC

“ I am so sorry to hear of Linda's passing.
Thoughts and Prayers to the Rice family.



Vicky Creasy - October 22, 2025 at 02:20 PM

DS

“ Dianne Sykes lit a candle in memory of Linda
Frances Shelton Rice



Dianne Sykes - October 22, 2025 at 02:20 PM

JW

“ Jerry and Family,
We are so sorry to learn of Linda's passing. May you cherish your
precious memories and hold them forever in your heart.
Our deepest condolences,
Kenny and Joan

Joan Woodson - October 22, 2025 at 02:02 PM

CO

“ Linda and I were suite mates at Longwood for two years. I am so sorry to hear about her passing. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Cindy Orkin - October 22, 2025 at 01:47 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Linda Frances Shelton Rice.



October 22, 2025 at 12:57 PM

RC

“ Ray And Kay Caldwell lit a candle in memory of Linda Frances Shelton Rice



Ray and Kay Caldwell - October 22, 2025 at 12:48 PM

SB

“ Love and prayers to the family. Linda was a precious lady and wonderful teacher. Sue and Edwin



Susan Blackstock - October 22, 2025 at 12:24 PM

CH

“ Beth, I am sorry for your family's loss.

Chris Hines - October 22, 2025 at 10:58 AM



“ I grew up with Beth and have so many fond memories of spending time at her house and with Linda. She was always so kind and welcoming. I'm so sorry for your loss. Sending prayers and comfort to everyone in the coming months.

Sincerely,
Lori

Lori Johnson - October 22, 2025 at 10:55 AM

DM

So sorry to hear of Linda's passing. I was the Secretary/Bookkeeper at Gladys Elementary School when she was Principal. It was a pleasure working with Linda.

Doris Mason - October 27, 2025 at 09:44 AM

JM

“ Jimmy And Anne Marr lit a candle in memory of Linda Frances Shelton Rice



Jimmy and Anne marr - October 22, 2025 at 10:44 AM

TB

Beth, I am sorry for your loss. Deepest sympathy for you and your family.

Tonda Bennett - October 23, 2025 at 09:51 AM

MF

*Jerry and family, God bless you at this time and Love be your peace.
Comfort and Peace, Marguerite Finch*

Marguerite Finch - October 25, 2025 at 04:41 PM

DB

Jerry, I am so sorry about your loss. May the love of your friends and family along with wonderful memories get you through this difficult time. My sympathies to you & your family, Dotty Bohannon

Dotty Bohannon - October 25, 2025 at 05:08 PM

MC

Jerry, we were so sorry to hear about Linda. In all the times we shared in school, we knew you and Linda were perfectly matched. We're so happy for the years you spent together and all the happiness you shared. Mike and Kay Childress

Mike Childress - October 27, 2025 at 06:42 PM