



Randi Karlin Walker

November 4, 1965 - August 14, 2025

Randi Karlin Walker, 59, of Albemarle, passed away in his sleep on August 14, 2025, after doing what he was so often remembered for, helping a friend.

Randi's life was defined by determination, humor, and heart. He was born in Centralia, Washington, and adopted shortly after by his loving parents, Ollie and Ann. From there, life carried him all over, from his first home with them in Alaska, to Japan, and eventually to Albemarle, with many more stops along the way during his years of service in the U.S. Air Force as an aircraft mechanic. His time in the military fueled not only his love of travel, but also his deep appreciation for camaraderie and lasting friendship.

After the Air Force, Randi returned to his lifelong passion: working with cars. For decades, he owned and operated The Jalopy Shop, a local automotive repair shop where he became the trusted hometown mechanic for countless neighbors and friends. Known for his resilience and his gift for solving problems, he brought both determination and creativity to every engine he touched. When he wasn't under the hood, he was often hunting down parts for his next muscle car restoration project, most especially his prized Hemi Cuda.

Those who knew Randi best saw not just his skill, but his humor, tenderness, and love of life. On fall mornings, he could be found in his deer stand, waiting patiently for the perfect buck. On weekends, mornings were reserved for

watching cartoons with his daughters when they were young. And at any time, he might be found befriending a new critter, despite the running joke that he was allergic to just about all of them.

In the end, it was two miniature doodles who became his loyal companions and the light of his life, second only to his beloved daughters, Kristi and Brandi. To them and to many others, he was a steady source of encouragement, teaching that joy mattered just as much as hard work.

Randi's legacy lives on in every laugh shared, every problem solved, and every bond built. He is deeply loved.

The family will receive friends from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, August 30, 2025, at Stanly Funeral and Cremation Care in Albemarle. Funeral service, officiated by Pastor Ron Loflin will be at 1 p.m. in the Stanly Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow in Fairview Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the family's "K9s for Warriors" Fundraiser (<https://gofund.me/206f54b8>), a cause chosen in Randi's honor that reflects his love for dogs and the support they bring to veterans like him.

Cemetery Details

Fairview Memorial Park

2001 E Main St
Albemarle, NC 28001-9106
(704) 983-2106

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **30**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Stanly Funeral & Cremation Care - Albemarle
1835 Badin Rd
Albemarle, NC 28001
(704) 982-8134

Funeral Service

AUG **30**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Stanly Funeral & Cremation Care - Albemarle
1835 Badin Rd
Albemarle, NC 28001
(704) 982-8134

Tribute Wall

WP

“ *W. Wyatt Pegram lit a candle in memory of Randi Karlin Walker*



W. Wyatt Pegram - August 28, 2025 at 02:44 PM



“ *My name is Mike Carnes. I'm not sure how long I've known Randi, but it's been a long time. We first met through the Jalopy Shop. We connected through a shared interest in vintage muscle cars. I invited him to go to Charlotte Autofair with me, and he was hooked on going to swap meets.*

After Randi closed the Jalopy Shop, he had a lot more free time on his hands. He was thrilled to be starting a new chapter of his life when he bought his log cabin. Moving day really wore me and several other friends out. He had so many plans about what he was going to in retirement. He was going to travel, finish the Cuda, build the Trans Am, go to some car shows and swap meets, etc. Randi was always optimistic about the future.

We also shared a love for animals. I was planning to ride down to his house to introduce him to my new dog when Brandi answered his phone and told me he had passed. Randi will be missed.

Mike Carnes - August 27, 2025 at 10:19 PM

GT

“ I never had the privilege of meeting Randi, but I feel like we knew each other. Where as he owned the Jalopy Shop, I owned the Jolly Jalopy Ice-cream Truck. People would get our phone numbers mixed up for years. We both just sent the customers to the correct number. This was a beautiful write up. I wish that I had met him in person 🙏

Ginger Turner - August 26, 2025 at 12:52 AM

TW

“ My name is Tracy Parnell Whitley. I went to school with Randi at West Albemarle Elementary School. He was very kind and friendly. I'm so sorry for your loss. The family is in my thoughts and prayers.



Tracy Parnell Whitley - August 22, 2025 at 04:20 PM

“What a shock this is. Randi became an instant friend (really one of my first) when I arrived in Stanly County in 1976. Our first meeting was sitting side by side in 5th grade class at Aquadale Elementary School. We loved being Mrs. Horne's nemesis.

We spent many weekends together at each other's homes as kids and grew up to hunt together; he was quite the marksman, me not so much.

And yes, I remember the many vehicles that he spent weeks and months working on. Some of them gave me quite the scare; I have to say that he liked to drive fast at times.

The high school years were a bit different; he attended Albemarle, whereas I attended South Stanly, and there was a running joke to that situation.

I still have a stack of letters that he wrote to me, just about every week, while serving in the Gulf War and I know that I was one of the first people to have the privilege of a bear hug from him when he came home late that night, still in his military jump suit. He came into my bedroom and woke me up to do it.

There are so many fond memories in my mind, and I could spend a whole day writing stories about our friendship over the years but will end with this.

We had not seen each other in a long time but just a few days ago, I was thinking about him, wondering if he was still in town, even trying to figure it out.

Then a mutual friend asked me this morning if I had heard the news.

Rest in peace, my friend. You were and will always be missed.

Gregory Scott Broome

Albemarle
August 22, 2025

Gregory Broome - August 22, 2025 at 09:42 AM