



Jonathan Kerry Blackwood

June 30, 1947 - February 16, 2026

Jonathan Kerry Blackwood, age 78 of Mentone, passed away on February 16, 2026 at his residence. Mr. Blackwood was born on June 30, 1947 in Memphis, TN to the late Jimmie & Alese Blalock Blackwood. Jonathan attended public schools in Fayette County, Tennessee. After graduation he attended Tennessee Tech University where he received a degree in History. He then transferred to the University of Memphis where he received his Juris Doctor. Mr. Blackwood began his legal career as an Assistant DA in the State of Tennessee for 10 years before becoming the Circuit Judge for the 25th Judicial District covering five counties in East Tennessee for 20 years. He then became Senior Judge for 10 years, covering all 95 counties, until his retirement.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Julia Jarrell Blackwood; brother & sister-in-law, William Steven & Helen Blackwood of Lisbon, Portugal; sisters & brothers-in-law, Brenda & Wayne Keller of Maryville, TN, and Beverly & Randy Smith of Jacksonville, FL; several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jimmie & Alese Blackwood; and nephew, Benjamin Smith.

Tribute Wall

CL

“ Cheryl Little sent a virtual gift in memory of Jonathan Kerry Blackwood



Cheryl Little - February 27 at 04:25 PM

JJ

“ Julia. Keeping you in our prayers. We miss you being a part of our church family. You and Kerry were a vital part of our community and I enjoyed working with you on church committees.

Jamie & Jean Jenkins
Somerville, TN

jamie jenkins - February 25 at 06:49 PM

GM

“ Mrs. Julia,
I am saddened to learn of Mr. Kerry's passing. You both have been such precious friends and supporters of our Marine Corps League Toys for Tots program. He and Charles have another venture in common. I can just see them sharing together.

I would be truly honored to attend his memorial service whenever you have it.

Remembering you with love and prayers,
Glenda Martin

Glenda Martin - February 18 at 06:39 PM

LH

“ It is with great sadness that I learned of Mr. Blackwood's passing. He and his wife Julia have been wonderful friends & faithful supporters of DeKalb Marine Toys for Tots for years ... not only do we mourn Kerry's passing; but we pray for Julia and the entire family, on behalf of N.E. Alabama Marine Corps League Detachment 1404 in Fort Payne AL.



LaRue Hardinger - February 18 at 05:33 PM

JG

“ I'm sorry to read of Judge Blackwood's passing! I always admired him and his decisions, even though I might not have agreed with them !! You are in my thoughts and prayers during this time of grief and loss!!

John Garrison - February 18 at 04:53 PM

FB

“ So sorry to hear of Kerry's death. Prayers for all his family.
Faye Bishop

Faye Bishop - February 18 at 09:01 AM

VV

When I first starting working for TDOC in 1998, I was assigned to Hardeman County and Judge Blackwood was the judge. My coworker and close friend, Susan Haney-Reagan, who was assigned to Fayette County, and I have many memories of working these courts, as well as McNairy County at times, under Judge Blackwood. Your family will be in my prayers.

Valerie Viers - February 18 at 10:29 AM

TB

Julia, I was so sad to hear of Kerry's passing. He was such a kind and precious man from the moment I met him. I enjoyed our conversations and he will be greatly missed. We are here for anything you need and will be praying for you today and in the days to come.

Tammy Blevins - February 19 at 10:02 AM

KD

Sad to hear about Kerry. I have many fond memories of growing up with Kerry in Somerville. He always had a smile on his face and interested in you. Julia, my prayers are with you.

Kathryn Fransioli Disario

Kathryn F Disario - February 19 at 11:10 AM

WD

I feel privileged to have gotten to know Judge Blackwood and to have practiced in front of him when he was a Senior Judge. He was a great judge and a great person. Wade Davies

Wade Davies - February 24 at 11:05 AM