



Suzanne Elizabeth Lenz Janney

May 20, 1946 - August 9, 2025

Suzanne Elizabeth Lenz Janney passed away in Sarasota on August 9, 2025 after a long battle with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy and pneumonia. Born in Suffern, New York on May 20, 1946, to William E. Lenz, Jr. and Elizabeth Burroughs Lenz, she grew up in Haverstraw, New York, where she attended Haverstraw High School. She attended Mount Holyoke College and, while there, spent a summer at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Bologna, Italy and another summer as a White House intern. After graduation from Mount Holyoke in 1968, she earned a M.A. from Columbia University in 1969. She married Oliver James Janney on June 21, 1969, at St. Thomas Church in New York City. The couple lived in Boston for over a year and returned to New York, where she and Oliver eventually settled in Scarborough-on-the-Hudson. There she brought up her son, Oliver Burr, and her daughter, Elizabeth Flower.

Suzanne worked for the Institute of International Education, where she served as Assistant Director of the Foreign Fulbright Programs and Assistant Manager of the American Fulbright Programs. She also served as President of the Mount Holyoke Club of Westchester. In 1991, she followed her husband to Sarasota, Florida. After a brief period as an adjunct at the University of South Florida, she joined New College of Florida, the state's honors college. She began as the National Grants Consultant; The first grant she secured exceeded \$600,000. Later, she became Director of Corporate and Foundation

Relations and Director of Special Projects. When New College became independent from the University of South Florida in 2001, she became the Special Assistant to the President for Gordon “Mike” Michalson and then Donal O’Shea. Her duties included obtaining New College’s accreditation, serving as liaison to the Board of Trustees, advising applicants for Fulbright scholarships, coordinating the Duke TIP Program at New College, and special projects. She also served as Secretary of the Sarasota World Affairs Council. After she retired in 2019, she served as a volunteer at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, the Episcopal Thrift House and the Caritas Food Pantry.

Suzanne was active in the Sarasota Mount Holyoke Club, which she served as President for many years. She also was President of her Mount Holyoke Class for five years, including their 50th reunion. In 2008, Mount Holyoke College awarded her the Alumnae Medal of Honor. Suzanne loved reading, gardening and her Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. She enjoyed the cultural events that Sarasota had to offer, including the Sarasota Orchestra, the Sarasota Music Festival, the Sarasota Ballet and the Asolo Theatre. She also loved travel, both for business and pleasure. She and Oliver visited many countries over the years.

Suzanne is survived by her husband, her son, Oliver Burr Janney, her daughter, Elizabeth Janney King, and her brother, William E. Lenz, III.

In accordance with her wishes, there will be no memorial service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Selby Botanical Gardens.

Tribute Wall

WI

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



William E. Lenz III - August 15, 2025 at 01:59 PM

CA

“ *I wish you peace, love, and light always. Thank you for bringing such a lovely daughter into our world!*

Caroline

Caroline - August 15, 2025 at 01:50 PM

WI

“ Suzanne was my only sibling. As her younger brother, I was introduced early on to Nancy Drew and Sue Barton by her, and her devotion to Barbara Tuchman and other historians informed my reading for years. As kids together, we played tennis, badmitten, and croquet, we took dad's canoe out on the lake at the Masonic Camp, and Sue even let me join in some Girl Scout Troop activities. As adults, we found ourselves working at different interesting colleges; Sue guided me through my successful NEH application for a Chatham summer institute on "Greening the Humanities." Suzanne was ready for any challenge. When I visited her in November I was struck by her positive attitude and her delight in everyday pleasures: she volunteered at the thrift shop, she enjoyed the orchid show, and devoured with relish a dinner of mussels. She had tremendous inner strength and was lovingly supported by Ollie, Oliver, and Elizabeth. I miss her already.

William E. Lenz III - August 15, 2025 at 01:48 PM

CW

I just learned of Suzanne's passing. We were friends and classmates at Mount Holyoke, summer roommates in DC, and I was a bridesmaid in her wedding to Oliver. While we connected at reunions, I wish we had stayed in better touch. A good reminder to hold your friends close. My deepest sympathy to Ollie, Oliver, William and Elizabeth. If you are ever in Oregon please get in touch.
Carol Heinsius Wite

Carol Wire - December 30, 2025 at 07:59 PM

MK

“ Suzanne you will be missed always. Such an amazing, strong woman. A solid beacon of light and wisdom with a healthy dose of humor and reality 100% of the time. You'll always be with us in our hearts and minds. It brings me comfort to know that you are at peace in heaven. Love you always Marma!

Matt King - August 15, 2025 at 01:41 PM



“ *Suzanne carefully and patiently met with me over a dozen times to help me craft my graduate school admission essays and fellowship applications. Her help, guidance, and encouragement is something I will always cherish.*

Shido Saado - August 15, 2025 at 09:23 AM

PF

“ *Suzanne: A good friend for a quarter of a century who shared thoughts easily, had great wisdom and insight in her response to all subjects. We had so many discussions of common concerns for our children. we believed in the same goals for them and for all the young people around us. She made sure I was included on all things regarding USF/Sarasota Manatee and New college. She was the primary force for the ranking of the college nationally. Suzanne made that a reality. Of all the people I encountered at New College over eight years she was my best friend and colleague. The world is a lesser place with Suzanne absent. The best tribute would be for friends to dedicate themselves to restoring the integrity, purpose, and recognition that was once the common condition of Suzanne's college.*

Peter French - August 14, 2025 at 06:43 PM

EK

“ *Mom, We miss you and love you. Throughout your life, you were driven by the desire to help others, and you have doubtless impacted the lives of many for the better. May your bright light continue to shine. With love, Elizabeth*

Elizabeth King - August 12, 2025 at 05:06 PM

CA

I wish you peace, love, and light always. Thank you for bringing such a lovely daughter into our world!

Caroline

Caroline - August 13, 2025 at 04:20 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Toale Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory - August 12, 2025 at 09:05 AM

AF

What a wonderful sister-in-law I was blessed with. It is hard to imagine anyone more kind, wise, intelligent, thoughtful or more delightful to be with in their company. Sue had an incredible life of service also via all the students she helped obtain scholarships and advanced degrees--countless lives touched as the ripples in the pond of life ever expand. It is beautiful as well to see all those same qualities be passed on to Oliver and Elizabeth. I cannot imagine how my brother Ollie could have had a more perfect wife and life companion, with all the shared intellectual, historical, cultural, and international interests, all graced by her very loving, inclusive and caring heart.

Alex Fane - August 15, 2025 at 05:22 PM