



# Dionne Jones Prestenback

OCT 13, 1934 - NOV 20, 2025



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# Dionne Jones Prestenback

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**Y**ou could always find Dionne Jones Prestenback with paint-stained clothes, a brush in her hand, and a quiet determination in her eyes. She passed away on Thursday, November 20, 2025, surrounded by the love she poured so freely into her family and her art.

Dionne discovered her passion for art in her 30s while running her beauty salon, “Fountain of Youth,” in Metairie, Louisiana. What began as a small creative spark grew into a lifelong devotion. She loved painting portraits and landscapes, and she approached every canvas with a sharp eye, a high standard, and an unforgettable teaching style that left a lasting mark on her students. For over 25 years, she served as an art teacher at Magnolia Park in Folsom, Louisiana, where her steady guidance, high expectations, and warm spirit shaped countless young artists. She was famously a bossy art teacher—the kind who demanded excellence because she saw potential in people long before they saw it in themselves.

Her greatest masterpieces were always her family.

She is survived by her sister, Joan Jones Donnow (Jack L. Donnow), and sister-in-law, Shirley Jones.

She is also survived by her beloved children: Elvina Doty Cross, Roy A. Doty (Eileen Reis Doty), Karen Doty Canizaro (Charles F. Canizaro), Dionne Doty Mefford (Robert A. Mefford), and Lori Prestenback Davis (David Lierzin).

Additionally, she is survived by 22 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, and 7 great-great-grandchildren.



## Obituary

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Dionne was preceded in death by her husband, Richard John Prestenback; her son, Ray A. Doty; her siblings, Jean Jones Steno (Carroll Steno), Elvina Jones Tiffany (Larry Tiffany), and Arthur H. “Butch” Jones Jr.; her son-in-law, Joseph A. Cross III; and her grandson, Charles M. Canizaro.

Her life was full—of color, of bold choices, and of love that stretched across generations. She poured herself into her family, celebrating every milestone, welcoming every new baby with joy, and staying deeply connected to each branch of her ever-growing legacy. Her home was a gathering place where stories were shared, meals were passed around, and love was always abundant.

Dionne was also a devoted member of Restoration Church in Robert, Louisiana, where she found fellowship, purpose, and a spiritual community she cherished. Her faith guided her, strengthened her, and shaped the way she loved—with compassion, generosity, and an open heart.

Anyone who knew her could tell you that the Lord assigned a special set of angels to ride with her—ones who held tightly to the outside of her car thanks to her legendary lead foot. She drove with the same spirit she lived with: bold, determined, and unafraid.

Whether she was guiding students, painting in the early mornings, praying for her family, or gathering them close, she lived with purpose and passion. The beauty she created—with her hands and with her heart—will continue to echo through every life she touched.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral services at E. J. Fielding Funeral Home, 2260 W 21st Avenue, Covington LA 70433 on Friday, December 12, 2025, at 11:00 AM with visitation on Friday beginning at 9:30 AM. Interment will follow in Lafayette #1 in New Orleans.



## Obituary

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E.J. Fielding Funeral Home has been entrusted with funeral arrangements. The Prestenback family invites you to share thoughts, fondest memories, and condolences online at E. J. Fielding Funeral Home Guest Book at <https://www.ejfieldingfh.com>.



# Events

**Dionne Jones Prestenback**

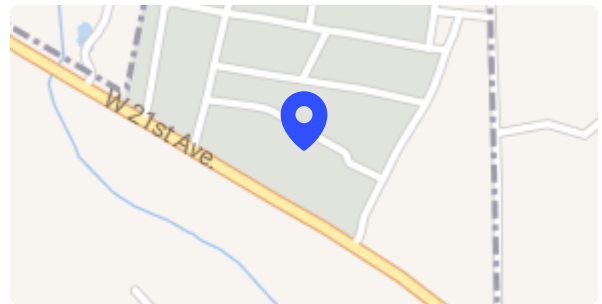
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## Visitation

**Friday**, December 12, 2025

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM CT

**E.J. Fielding Funeral Home & Cremation Services**  
2260 W 21st Ave, Covington LA 70433

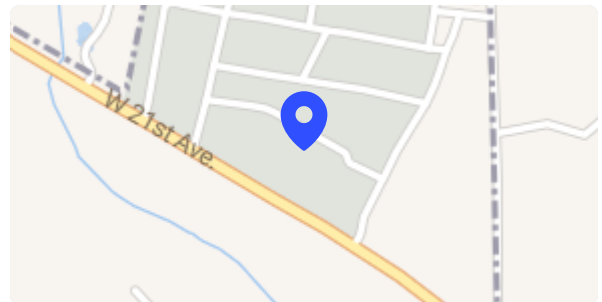


## Funeral Service

**Friday**, December 12, 2025

11:00 AM CT

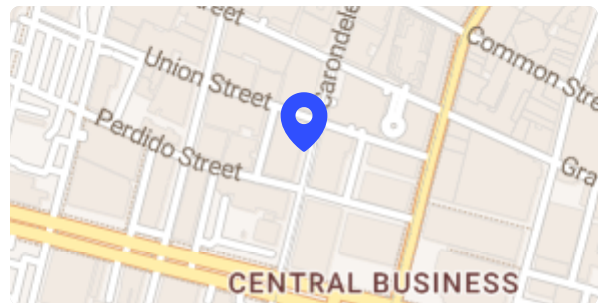
**E.J. Fielding Funeral Home & Cremation Services**  
2260 W 21st Ave, Covington LA 70433



## Interment

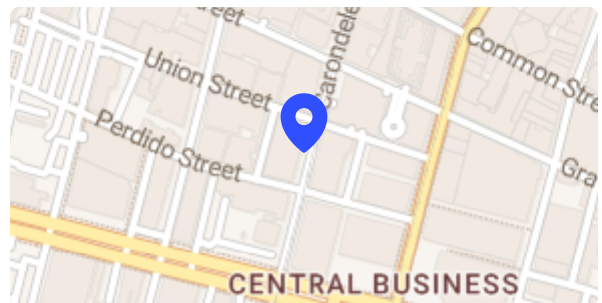
**Friday**, December 12, 2025

**Lafayette Cemetery #1**  
New Orleans LA



## Cemetery Details

**Lafayette Cemetery #1**  
New Orleans LA





# Tribute Wall

**Dionne Jones Prestenback**

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**Tina Cross** posted:

When I first met Grandmother and got to know her through the years, I always admired her as a "Sister, Mother, Grandmother and GGM," ( I loved how she came up with that.) EJ has told me stories about spending time with her and Grandfather Richie, and how he enjoyed it. He still remembers a lot of those stories and was reminding Grandmother of them on our recent visits with her. He'll always have those memories. I also admired her as an "Artist," she did beautiful work. I remember when she painted the picture of Christina and gave it to us. I was so excited to have this and we will forever treasure it, Christina most of all. But it wasn't till recently, after EJ had the stroke, that I really admire her as a "wife". She met and fell in love with Grandfather Richie. She married him and vowed to care for him till death do they part, and she did. She was the best wife and caregiver. Even though she wasn't my blood grandmother, She was My Grandmother! and We will miss her. Tina, EJ, Christina & Ronniel wanted to read this at the service, but I didn't think I could without crying.

December 12 at 6:03 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Prestenback family.



December 7 at 5:41 PM



**La Dance Space Company Girls** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Dionne.

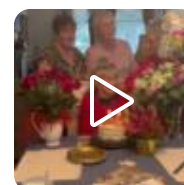


December 7 at 5:41 PM



**Eileen Doty** shared a video to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Her 91st birthday on 10/13/25. She switched the numbers to 19 ☐



December 4 at 9:59 PM



## Tribute Wall

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**Judy Colley** posted:

Mrs Dionne was good friends with my mom 54 years ago. They shared many special moments. Elvina was 5 months old when I was born. When my mom came home from the hospital with me, Mrs Dionne gave me my 1st bath. My mom didn't have much help as my dad was in Korea at that time. My mom has told me the story many times. Over the years we always stayed close. After hurricane betsy flooded our home, she came to arabi and took my sister and I back to her house in Kenner to give my parents a chance to clean our house from the flood damage. She always cooked great meals and made a special cake whenever we were there. Elvina and I have remained special friends thru the years. Mrs Dionne was always beautiful and talented. She has a beautiful family that will surely miss her Judy Johnson Colley

December 4 at 6:35 PM



**Christina Harper** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

It was in honor to be her oldest of 35 Great Grandchildren! Not many people can say they had their Great Grandmother at their wedding, but I can always say I did! You will be greatly missed GGM. ❤️



December 4 at 3:46 PM



**Media**

**Dionne Jones Prestenback**

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Eileen Doty shared a video to the **Tribute Wall** album.

December 4 at 9:59 PM





Christina Harper shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

December 4 at 3:46 PM





# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Dionne by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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