



Ms. Rhonda Deniece Holt

December 5, 1964 - October 30, 2025

Ms. Rhonda Deniece Holt, age 60, passed away on October 30, 2025, in Falls Church, VA.

Rhonda was born December 5, 1964 in Columbia, South Carolina to James C. & Martha Ann Holt. Rhonda attended elementary school in Augusta, Georgia and middle school in Gainesville, FL. After graduating from Buchholz High School in 1983, Rhonda was accepted to the University of Florida. She graduated from UF in 1986 with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science from the College of Liberal Arts & Science.

She began her career working for IBM from 1986-1996. After leaving IBM she accepted a position with Sun Microsystems from 1996-2004. She worked for Dell from 2004-2006 and Turner Broadcasting Systems from 2006-2013. She also worked for a start up company, Trusted Care from 2013-2016. In December 2016, Rhonda accepted her dream job with Public Broadcasting Service as a Senior Vice President. She was promoted to her dream job in 2021 as Chief Technology Officer for Public Broadcasting System (PBS). Rhonda received numerous awards over her career in computer engineering including Most Notable 2002 Black Engineer of the Year Award, 2012 Multichannel News Wonder Woman Award, 2010 Women In Communications Technology Red Letter Catalyst Award, 2019 Outstanding Alumna Award, University of Florida College of Liberal Arts & Science. She also served on

numerous boards, Public Broadcasting Atlanta WABE TV, Director of the UF Foundation Board, UF CIS Engineering Industry Advisory Board, and the Deans Advisory Board.

Rhonda loved her family, traveling, and reading. She loved coming home to Gainesville to attend UF football games and going to Leonardo's Pizza for a Big Leo slice and Publix fried chicken, which was also her favorite.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Martha Ann Harris Holt. She is survived by her father, James C. Holt; siblings, Cynthia Marie Holt & James G. Holt (Veronica); and beloved family members.

"A CHESTNUT SERVICE"

Cemetery Details

Forest Meadow Cemetery - East

3700 SE Hawthorne Road
Gainesville, FL 32641

Previous Events

Public Viewing

NOV **14**. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Chestnut Funeral Home
18 NW 8th Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32601

Funeral Service

NOV **15**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Forest Meadows Cemetery - Central
4900 NW 39th Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32607

Tribute Wall

HB

“ I was so saddened to learn of Rhonda’s passing. I had the privilege of working with her in 2016 when she relocated to Virginia to begin her work at PBS. Even in the relatively short time we knew each other, she left a lasting impression on me.

Rhonda was incredibly smart, quick-witted, and genuinely kind. She was a true pleasure to work with and someone I always remembered fondly.

My heartfelt condolences to her family, friends, and colleagues. She will be deeply missed.

Holly Tennant Billy - February 19 at 03:28 PM

HT

“ Holly T. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Rhonda Deniece Holt.

Holly T. - February 19 at 03:23 PM

AL

“ I have just learned of Rhonda's passing, and I am deeply sorry for this great loss. My heart extends to her family. I engaged with Rhonda between 2008 and 2015 during the time when she served as a dedicated member of the UF College of Engineering Dean's Advisory Board. I was an associate dean of our engineering students at that time, and we connected because of her outpouring of generosity of time, talent, and treasure to our programs supporting student success. I recall her positivity, kindness, and determination to mentor our students. She was especially drawn to our STEPUP program students and was unfailingly supportive of students who are from untraditional backgrounds in engineering. She related to their challenges and was always willing to share her story. I recall how proud she was too of being the creator of the news "crawler" at the bottom of the CNN TV broadcasts. She was brilliant, loving, and unselfish. How tragic is her leaving us. Blessings to her love ones.

Angela Lindner - December 15, 2025 at 05:18 PM

DM

“ Rhonda was one of the kindest and thoughtful people I've met in public media. She was always willing to share her knowledge and her smile. She was so supportive of Public Media Women in Leadership, the non-profit I founded, and was willing to speak or present whenever I asked. It was wonderful to have her as a role model for young women in tech. My deepest condolences to her family and friends. In sympathy, Deanna Mackey, KPBS & PMWL

Deanna M Mackey - November 17, 2025 at 03:12 PM

TM

“ On behalf of Interim Dean Dixon and the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering at the University of Florida, we extend our deepest condolences to her family, friends, and colleagues. Rhonda’s contributions and spirit will continue to inspire us all.

Tara Meek - November 13, 2025 at 10:42 AM

TM

“ Tara M. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rhonda Deniece Holt.

Tara M. - November 13, 2025 at 10:11 AM

-D

“ -PBS Distribution purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ms. Rhonda Deniece Holt.



-PBS Distribution - November 12, 2025 at 03:17 PM

Profile icon

“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Ms. Rhonda Deniece Holt.



November 12, 2025 at 01:35 PM

PS

“ *PBS: Public Broadcasting Service planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rhonda Deniece Holt.*

PBS: Public Broadcasting Service - November 12, 2025 at 01:35 PM

HU

“ *Hattie Usher purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Ms. Rhonda Deniece Holt.*



Hattie Usher - November 12, 2025 at 12:30 PM

KH

“ *Kenny & Cerene Holt purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Ms. Rhonda Deniece Holt.*



Kenny & Cerene Holt - November 10, 2025 at 07:09 PM

KH

“ *Kenny & Cerene Holt planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rhonda Deniece Holt.*

Kenny & Cerene Holt - November 10, 2025 at 07:09 PM

ML

“ *Mathews Law purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Ms. Rhonda Deniece Holt.*



Mathews Law - November 10, 2025 at 05:13 PM

SM

“ *Sending deepest condolences from Rhonda's friends at Chicago's PBS station WTTW. We will remember Rhonda for her warmth and generosity of spirit as well for as her brilliant mind. She was a valued colleague and friend to so many, and she will be missed. Sincerely, Sandra Cordova Micek, President and CEO, WTTW*

Sandra Cordova Micek - November 10, 2025 at 11:32 AM

CL

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Cecilia Loving - November 08, 2025 at 09:08 PM

JS

“ Rhonda was a valued colleague at PBS and will be remembered for her integrity, warmth and kindness. She was extremely mission driven and deeply passionate about PBS, watching more programming than most. I always enjoyed our conversations, which ranged from the changes in the media business to college football and her beloved Gators. I am deeply saddened by her loss. Please accept my condolences.

Jayme Swain - November 08, 2025 at 04:55 PM

JB

“ Rhonda was an exceptional colleague and friend to so many of us at PBS.

As Chief Technology Officer, Rhonda led the company's technology operations in service of PBS's mission. She was an outstanding communicator who was able to explain complex technological processes by using metaphors from real-life. Many months after she explained things, you would still hear people saying: "It's like Rhonda's pizza illustration!" Or "That's like Rhonda's central air conditioning metaphor!"

Rhonda was also an avid fan of PBS programming, and could speak about shows in minute detail. She inspired a PBS-themed mini-golf tournament, in which each hole was styled after a PBS show.

As gifted a leader as she was, Rhonda will be most remembered as a friend. Her intellect, sense of humor, and warm smile will be sorely missed.

Jonathan Barzilay - November 08, 2025 at 08:55 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ms. Rhonda Deniece Holt.



November 07, 2025 at 05:10 PM



“ Maria Gutierrez Martin, UF Foundation planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rhonda Deniece Holt.

Maria Gutierrez Martin, UF Foundation - November 07, 2025 at 05:10 PM



“ Amanda M. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rhonda Deniece Holt.

Amanda M. - November 07, 2025 at 03:09 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Ms. Rhonda Deniece Holt.



November 07, 2025 at 02:26 PM

RM

“ *Ron & Titania Miranda planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rhonda Deniece Holt.*

Ron & Titania Miranda - November 07, 2025 at 02:26 PM