

## JENNY OATES, ΣK



(nee Walker) (Husband Ken)  
 Sorority: Sigma Kappa  
 University: NW St Univ of LA  
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 Business Affiliation:

Jenny Oates was born in Panama and grew up in the Panama Canal Zone, where her father worked as a Civilian employee for the Army since after WWII. During the war, her father served in the US Navy. Many Americans went to the Canal Zone after the war and got jobs and stayed there for their entire career. Her mother was Panamanian and Jenny still has lots of relatives in Panama.

After graduating from Balboa High School, Jenny went to Canal Zone College for two years and then transferred to Northwestern State University of Louisiana in Natchitoches, Louisiana, where she pledged Sigma Kappa 50 years ago. She was active in her chapter, Delta Mu, while at Northwestern. Upon graduation from college, Jenny returned to the Panama Canal Zone and got a job with the Panama Canal Company in the Personnel Office where she worked as a Personnel Management Specialist for many years.

Jenny met her husband, Ken, while he was stationed in the Canal Zone as an Engineer Officer in the US Army. They got married in the Canal Zone, honeymooned in Quito, Ecuador and then moved to Miami where Ken got a job with a major construction company building hotels and high-rise condos in the Miami area. Ken retired after 30 years with his same company. They have been married 41 years and have two children. Their son, Kenny, is an Engineer with one of the NASCAR teams in Charlotte, North Carolina and their daughter, Michelle, is a Veterinary Doctor in Denver, Colorado. Jenny has two beautiful granddaughters – one from each of her children.

Moving from Panama to Miami, Jenny worked for the US Coast Guard in the Civilian Personnel Office in downtown Miami for many years. While her children were little, she took a long break from working. However, worked just as hard at home! When her daughter Michelle went off to college, Jenny went back into the workforce and got a job with the Air Force at Homestead Air Reserve Base. She worked there for 16 years as a Human Resources Management Specialist. She retired with 28 years of civilian Federal Government service in February 2020 and is enjoying being retired.