



Catherine Ellis Reed

November 21, 1946 - February 7, 2025

Catherine Donald Ellis Reed, 78, of Arab passed away Friday, February 7, 2025, at Shepherd's Cove in Albertville.

Mrs. Reed was born November 21, 1946, in Lexington, Mississippi, to Ruth Belford Donald and Robert Pearson Ellis, Jr. She graduated from Arab High School in 1965 and married classmate, Edwin Henry Reed, in December of 1966.

She graduated from Auburn University in 1972 with a degree in education and taught home economics at Arab High School from 1973 to 1982. She enjoyed teaching students essential life skills such as sewing, cooking and money management. After retiring from teaching, she worked as a bookkeeper for many years at The Arab Tribune, the family newspaper she and her husband owned from 1970 to 2023.

Mrs. Reed loved spending time with her family and was a devoted mother and "Yia Yia" as she was known after becoming a grandmother. She also enjoyed researching genealogy with her sister, Susan, and amassed a large collection of books containing photographs and other historical documents to pass down to not only her immediate family but to extended family as well.

Another of her loves was traveling. Mrs. Reed traveled the globe for a number of years, visiting more than 40 countries and almost every state in the United States.

She also remained active with the AHS Class of 1965 in helping plan reunions and enjoyed attending the group's monthly luncheons at Grumpy's in Arab.

She was a member of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in Guntersville. Mrs. Reed was preceded in death by her parents; son-in-law, Joey Yarbrough; brother-in-law, Jeff Reed; and niece, Karen Beeler.

In addition to her husband, Ed, Mrs. Reed is survived by her two daughters: Stephanie Reed Yarbrough of Arab and Lezlie Reed-Johnson (Marc) of Guntersville; sister, Susan Purdom (Wayne) of California; six grandchildren: Reed Yarbrough and Ellis Yarbrough of Arab and John Wesson Johnson, James Ed Johnson, Ellie Johnson and Millie Johnson, all of Guntersville; one great-grandchild: Mary-Alice Yarbrough; and a host of in-laws, nieces and nephews.

A graveside service is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. Saturday, February 15, 2025, at Arab Memorial Cemetery with the Rev. Bob Blackwell officiating and Arab Heritage Memorial Chapel directing.

Pallbearers will be Marc Johnson, John Wesson Johnson, James Ed Johnson, Reed Yarbrough and Tyler Bleau.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Shepherd's Cove, Hospice of Marshall County, at shepherds Cove.org or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at stjude.org.

Cemetery Details

Arab Memorial Cemetery

565 South Main Street
Arab, AL 35016

Previous Events

Graveside Service

FEB 15. 2:00 PM (CT)

Arab Memorial Cemetery
565 South Main Street
Arab, AL 35016

Tribute Wall

BW

“ *Bradley and Shae Wisener purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Catherine Ellis Reed.*



Bradley and Shae Wisener - February 14, 2025 at 08:50 PM

VM

“ Catherine was a loving sister-in-law to me; it was easy to love her in return. I married Jeff Reed (Ed’s brother) at a young age and she helped me have confidence to cook meals and be a homemaker. When Jeff and I had Kimberly (Kim), Catherine helped me feel part of the whole Reed Family. The family was a large number of wonderful people with uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins, and Great-Granddaddy Reed. I can’t remember when Great-Grandmother died.



Catherine and Ed were good to both of our children, Kim and Taylor. But Kim was lucky that Ed & Catherine had girls because she fit in the middle between Stephanie and Lezlie. When all three of the girls were young, Kim benefitted & went to Disney World & other fun places with their girls! During the years when Kim was little, she got gifts from Catherine such as robes and purses, like she brought to Steph & Lez! Naturally, Kim especially loved her Aunt Catherine!

Catherine loved to travel, as I do, so we never had trouble keeping conversation going. Catherine will be on the welcoming committee in heaven! One day I pray we can pick up our conversation again! You & Ed have done a great job with your children & grandchildren! You are loved by so many!!!
Love you, Vicki C. (Reed) Miller

Vicki Coleman Reed Miller - February 14, 2025 at 03:56 PM

TF

“ The Donald Family purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Catherine Ellis Reed.



The Donald Family - February 14, 2025 at 11:23 AM

B6

“ *Betty King Whisenant Class Of 65 lit a candle in memory of Catherine Ellis Reed*



Betty King Whisenant Class of 65 - February 11, 2025 at 10:12 PM

B6

Class of 65

Betty King Whisenant Class of 65 - February 11, 2025 at 10:17 PM

NM

“ *Nalani McNary lit a candle in memory of Catherine Ellis Reed*



Nalani McNary - February 08, 2025 at 10:25 AM

TC

“ *Teresa Calhoun sent a virtual gift in memory of Catherine Ellis Reed*



Teresa Calhoun - February 08, 2025 at 08:35 AM

TC

“ Teresa Calhoun lit a candle in memory of Catherine Ellis Reed



Teresa Calhoun - February 08, 2025 at 08:33 AM

BF

“ Briana and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Catherine Ellis Reed.

Briana and Family - February 07, 2025 at 06:16 PM

BF

“ Briana and Family purchased the Forever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of Catherine Ellis Reed.



Briana and Family - February 07, 2025 at 06:16 PM