



Mrs. Martha Jean Reynolds

September 5, 1930 - April 9, 2020

Martha Jean Reynolds, fondly known as “Buh” to her grandchildren, passed away on Thursday, April 9, 2020.

Martha Jean was born in Albertville, AL on September 5, 1930 to the late Emily and Lemmie Wilbanks. After graduating from Albertville High School, she received a teaching degree from Jacksonville State University. She married Ralph Reed in 1951. They moved to Arab in 1957, where Ralph founded the Arab Printing Shop and the Arab Tribune. Martha Jean began teaching 9th grade at Union Grove School. In May, 1958, Ralph was killed in an accident on the way home from chaperoning the ninth grade class to the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville. With the help of Alice and Ewell Reed, Madeline and Guy Jackson, and in later years Ed Reed, Martha Jean continued to help run the Tribune for several years.

She later married J.D. Reynolds Jr. who preceded her in death in 1995. She was an active member of the Arab First United Methodist Church. She was a wonderful cook and shared her love of food with family and friends. She enjoyed many different activities, but her greatest joy was being with family. She is survived by daughters Linda Ruth Word (Jimmy), Janet Willis (John), Patty Reynolds Norcross (Bob), and son Scott Reynolds (Richi); sister, Sarah Wilbanks Meriwether; six grandchildren, Bryan Word (Holly), Martha Jo Williams (Duke), Kelly Rodgers (Hunter), Emily Word, J.D. Reynolds, III, and Rob Reynolds; eight great grandchildren, Davis, Kaitlyn, and Harrison Word, Ava Reed, Worth, and Poppy Rodgers, Josie and Mary Duke Williams and a

special friend and caregiver, Mitzi Marbry. She is also survived by a host of nieces and nephews.

A graveside service for immediate family will be held Saturday, April 11 at Arab Memorial Cemetery.

Honorary pallbearers will be George Meriwether III, J. D. Reynolds III, Rob Reynolds, Hunter Rodgers, Worth Rodgers, Duke Williams, Bryan Word and Davis Word.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Arab First United Methodist Building Fund, Shepherd's Cove Hospice of Marshall County, or a charity of your choice.

Arab Heritage Memorial Chapel, directing.

Cemetery Details

Arab Memorial Cemetery

565 South Main Street
Arab, AL 35016

Tribute Wall

JH

“ *Martha Jean Reynolds was what I called a Southern Lady. She was beautiful inside and outside. She would always make you feel special when you where around her. If you didn't know her you miss something special. My prayers and thoughts goes to her family.*
Johnny Hart

Johnny Hart - April 20, 2020 at 03:52 PM

“ I was so blessed to get to know Martha Jean, even if it was for a short time. Her love for her family and friends was very evident as she shared stories and pictures with me. She was such a gracious lady with the kind of wisdom, might I add a quiet wisdom, not trying to impress others but a deep wisdom developed by spending time with her Lord. My greatest memory will always be taking her for a drive on Sunday before she started her journey home to the Lord. She had talked of her homeplace in Albertville and wanted to show me where she grew up. So off we went, me , Martha Jean, her sweet neighbor and long time friend Pasty Carter was in the back with all our gear she had packed. We were ready for any unforeseen emergence. I had no idea where we were going in Albertville but Martha Jean was in the front seat, she was my Garmin, just going by sight without street names I depended totally on her memory. Oh how excited she was when she recognized where we were. Excitedly she said, turn here, turn here. Of course in my mind I was thinking I sure hope this is it. I did not want to disappoint her. But we drove for several miles, me still wondering if this was the actual road until she said up there, up there. Such joy and excitement to share with us her home as a child and the homeplace her grandparents and an aunt. As she shared fond memories while driving by her face spoke volumes. I drove very slowly so she could soak in all she could. I turned the car around and we headed back down the road for one last look, I could sense in my spirit that something much deeper was happening in our car. Little did I know that this was her goodbye to her earthly home. This will always remind me not to rush those God moments, we never know the commission the Lord has sent us on. I found out real quick that Martha Jean loved ice cream, so we thought to top our drive off we needed to go through Jacks for ice cream. As we drove home Martha Jean said several times, “ this was a wonderful day, thank you so much”. I will always remember this day with love and gratitude that Martha Jean allowed me to be a part of her last visit to her earthly homeplace. Oh what joy she experienced that day. If we could only see what joy she is experiencing now, Martha Jean is home, in

heaven. It's not goodbye, but see you later. Thank you sweet lady for the short time we knew each other. Your forever friend, Gay Carriker

Gay Carriker - April 12, 2020 at 08:04 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Reynolds Graveside Service



Arab Heritage Memorial Chapel - April 11, 2020 at 04:17 PM

PC

“ *I first met Martha Jean when my two sisters, Sherria Isom and Linda Hart, would go on 'girlfriend trips' with her. I got to talk to them about their wonderful adventures. Many times she was in the background, included in the conversations. Some of my favorite memories are of my vicarious travels from their viewpoints!*

When I moved across the street from her in 2014, I knew I was right across from a very special friend and neighbor. She and I enjoyed getting to know each other better. I'll always cherish my times with her and them!

Patsy Betterton Carter

Patsy Betterton Carter - April 11, 2020 at 11:58 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Martha Jean Reynolds.*



April 10, 2020 at 10:26 PM



“ *I am so sorry to hear of Martha Jeans passing. She was such a sweet and gracious lady.always a smile when I saw her. My love and prayers to the family. Sheila Bailey.*

Sheila Bailey - April 10, 2020 at 02:04 PM



“ *Linn and I are so sad to hear of Martha Jean's death. If ever there was a wonderful Christian woman, this was Martha Jean. She was one of the nicest people I have ever known. One of my last visits with her, she was so glad to sit and share old times and catch up on her friends. And, she had a lot of friends. She always enjoyed the Crow Mt peaches I would bring her, and always said you don't have to bring peaches, just come see me. I was just as blessed with the visits as she was. God bless all of you and know you are in our thoughts and prayers. It makes it so much harder during these times not to be able to express our sympathy in person. Just know you all are in our hearts.*

Linn and Carolyn Brannon - April 10, 2020 at 01:31 PM

KB

My heart is saddened by the passing of Martha Jean. If there was a graceful southern lady, it was Martha Jean. Pastor Roy and I would visit Martha up until his illness. We enjoyed carrying Valentine balloons, roses for Mother's Day, fruit basket for Christmas and other things. She welcomed us with open arm and a loving heart. Martha Jean you will be greatly missed but I know you are in that new glorified body rejoicing with our Lord. I will be in prayer for the family

kathy Bryant - April 11, 2020 at 01:20 AM

LM

Sincere condolences. We were neighbors on 5th St NE when the Reeds moved to Arab. Such a wonderful family. A true lady.

Linda McClendon - April 11, 2020 at 11:37 AM