



Birtie Cunningham

May 17, 1927 - January 19, 2019

BIRTIE CUNNINGHAM

Birtie Rachel Cunningham, age 91, of Gravois Mills, Missouri, passed away Saturday, January 19, 2019 at her home. She was born May 17, 1927 in Renick, West Virginia, a daughter of the late Alexander and Emma Frances (Cochran) Campbell.

On December 19, 1947 in Mississippi, she was united in marriage to Billy J. Cunningham. Together they shared fifty-six years of marriage before his passing on February 3, 2004.

She was also preceded in death by her parents and a son, Kenneth Cunningham.

Survivors include her children, Ronald Cunningham of Indianapolis, Indiana, Lyle Cunningham of Tusculumbia, Missouri and Emily Heller of Shawnee, Kansas; sixteen grandchildren; twenty-nine great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends.

Birtie was raised in West Virginia and lived in various places throughout the United States. The family retired to the Lake of the Ozarks in 1972. She was a member of the V.F.W. Ladies Auxiliary in Overland Park, Kansas, the Bucketts

Ladies Group with the Gravois Mills Volunteer Fire Department and the American Legion Auxiliary in Sunrise Beach, Missouri. In her spare time, she enjoyed collecting and doing crafts. She had knack for gardening and enjoyed working in her yard and tending to her flowers and plants.

Services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Friday, January 25, 2019 at Kidwell-Garber Laurie/Sunrise Beach Chapel. Visitation will be from 10:00-11:00 a.m., Friday at the funeral home. Burial will follow in Garber Memorial Estates.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of the Kidwell-Garber Laurie/Sunrise Beach Chapel.

Cemetery Details

Garber Memorial Estates

417 Silvey Rd.
Laurie, MO 65038
(573) 374-7688

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 25. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home - Laurie/Sunrise Beach Chapel
417 Silvey Rd.
Laurie, MO 65038
(573) 374-7688

Service

JAN 25. 11:00 AM (CT)

Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home - Laurie/Sunrise Beach Chapel
417 Silvey Rd.
Laurie, MO 65038
(573) 374-7688

Tribute Wall

AB

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Amy Buckley - January 22, 2019 at 10:14 PM

RC

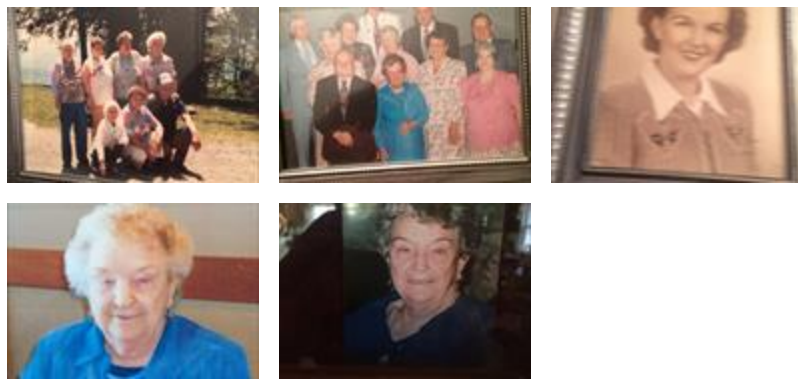
“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



ron cunningham - January 22, 2019 at 12:38 PM

RC

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



ron cunningham - January 22, 2019 at 11:52 AM

“ MOM MEMORY

Mom reminds me of how strong a person can be. She would tell the story of leaving home at 15 or 16 on her own. How she made it to Ohio found a job and supported herself till she met the man she eventually married and was with for the next 56 years till he passed away. I've known a few West Virginia girls all of which like Mom were strong willed and independent. Maybe something in that water. Of course, she knew to let Dad feel like he was in charge. Dad worked rotating shifts and Mom ran the house hold, making sure us kids stayed in line. I think she did an excellent job as we all turned out very well.

Mom said up until the very end that she had a wonderful life. Her and dad traveled in their truck camper and then in their motor home across the U.S. They often had family or friends that traveled with them. They were very social.

I'm pretty sure it was Mom that convinced Dad to come 6 years in a row to High school Graduations in Indiana. That was their way of saying they did care about family. We didn't hug and say "I love you" to each other, but they were always there when you needed them. Dad needed a project to do if he came, mainly remodeling. Mom was the organizer and would pick up and clean up after Dad. They were a team. These past few years, I would call Mom every Monday to talk and see how she was doing. After a little while, we both learned how to say "I love you" when we hung up. In my mind that was a very big thing for both of us.

We had many fond memories of Lake life. My children tell me stories of the "rest time," mom made them take every day. How Dad spent time in the water with them and teaching them to ski. Our most favorite "Big Breakfast," salmon patties, biscuits and gravy, eggs, and sorghum, or Butter-lo-sugar-lo biscuits. Oh, and don't forget the cooked blackberries. That tradition was still happening this past October, when I came to visit. It meant we kids had to do the cooking instead of Mom, and the biscuits were not homemade, but the joy around the table was still there.

Mom was not a person who went to church. I aske her many times

about her beliefs. She assured me that she believed in heaven and that she would be with Dad and my Brother Kenneth and family. She said she watched/listened to the sermons on TV on Sunday mornings. She did believe in Jesus Christ as her savior. That is why she was ready to stop treatment and let happen what was going to eventually happen anyway. I will say she passed in her own bed. In her sleep just as she had told me she wanted to do. When she was talking, she said she was not in pain, and I hope that is true to the very end.

Thank you MOM, for taking so good care of me as I grew up. I was loved and protected from so many things. As I have aged and heard stories and seen people who have had such hard lives, it makes me appreciate more and more what you and Dad provided for us through out the years. You will be missed, but you will be in my heart forever.

Your Loving Son

Ron

P. S. I LOVE YOU!!!!

Ron Cunningham - January 22, 2019 at 12:14 AM

LB

Oh, Ronny (that's what I still have to call you, based on our younger days),

This is such a heartfelt and wonderful tribute to your mom. She was indeed one very strong, kind, creative, hard-working and special woman. I is so apparent that you loved her deeply. My sympathies to you and those in your family.

Lynn Faust Beets

Lynn Beets - January 22, 2019 at 01:19 PM

JM

Beautiful thoughts you shared! Makes me wish I had done a better job staying in touch with all of you. Although I do have priceless memories of times when Uncle Billy and Aunt Birtie visited Big Mama and Pop, especially when we were young.

Janis Cunningham McCoy - January 22, 2019 at 07:11 PM

TD

Beautiful tribute Ron, praying for your family as you walk through this time of loss. Your Alabama family loves you!

Tina Dunham - January 22, 2019 at 07:26 PM

AB

Wonderful words Dad - you were a treasure to her and to me. I remember Gramma - teaching us rummy, Mexican train, and how to shine rocks. Going to the Big Pond was a fantastic memory each summer. We got to see our cousin's and be without parents:) she didn't let us get away with anything though. She wore us out and fed us well! Learned how to ski, going to pee pee island for a picnic, and walking up to buck creek store. When she was serious you knew it- she rolled her tongue! In more recent years we talked on the phone or on our visits like regular adults. She always wanted the answers to her questions. She said i love you without hesitation and was always happy i called. I will miss her but have great memories and am happy she's at peace now!

Love you Gramma

Amy

Amy Buckley - January 22, 2019 at 10:01 PM

RF

Ron, In reading your tribute it brought back many memories of when they came to Ohio. I can walk in my grandson's bedroom right now and see the shelves they hung, and in the front room the large mirror they hung for Sherry and I. I am glad to hear she was ready to go and Sherry and I got to pray with Uncle Billie before he passed. She will be missed. Roger Fleegle (nephew by marriage)

Roger L Fleegle - January 22, 2019 at 10:20 PM