



Shirley Rudd-Stephens

OCT 16, 1944 - JUN 11, 2022



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Shirley Rudd-Stephens

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Shirley Ann Stokes Rudd-Stephens, 77 years of age, passed away June 11, 2022, in Tallahassee, Florida. She was born October 16, 1944, in Florella, Alabama, to J.C. Stokes and Eunice Stokes. Shirley was raised in Laurel Hill, Florida, and graduated from Laurel Hill High School. Afterwards, Shirley relocated to Melbourne, Florida, where she married James O. Rudd, with whom she had two children, Faith Rudd Leynes and Shane Rudd.

Shirley is survived by her loving husband, Matthew Gene Stephens; her grandchildren, Courtney Leynes, and Robert Leynes III (wife Savanna); two great grandchildren Oliver Owen Leynes and Chloe Elaine Leynes; brothers James Stokes (wife Syretha) and Elwin Stokes (wife Dot) and many nieces and nephews, each of whom was her "favorite".

Shirley was preceded in death by her children; Faith Rudd Leynes and Shane Rudd; her parents; brothers; Donald Stokes, William G. Stokes, and John Stokes; sisters; Gloria Stokes Brock, Mary Stokes Thomas, and Barbara Stokes Riley.

Shirley was gainfully employed throughout her adult life, culminating in being employed as a dispatcher with Talquin Electric Corporation from February of 1988 to her retirement in May of 2009. She was employed at the time of her passing as office manager for Gadsden Psychological Services, Jeffrey Landau, Phd., p.a.

Shirley's first and forever loves were her Savior, Jesus Christ, and her family. She reflected her devotion to The Lord every day in her life, encouraging anyone and everyone she loved, and she loved everyone, to be "happy, healthy, and Christ like". Shirley enjoyed and loved her Church family and her Blue Star Memorial Highway Bible Study group immensely. The void her passing leaves in them is beyond measure.

Shirley and Gene were married in November of 2019, and those closest to her said she was happier than they had ever seen her. They traveled together to the north Georgia towns and



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mountains they loved, they worshipped together, they visited family and friends together. They enjoyed gospel, country and western, bluegrass, and classic rock and roll music together. They were committed to living and loving together.

Shirley's love for, devotion to, and support of her children and grandchildren were exemplary. She strove to care for and protect them to unfathomable extent. They recognized what an exceptional lady their mother and grandmother was, and she enjoyed the warmth and glow of their affection and appreciation greatly.

Shirley had a special place in her heart for her parents and her brothers and sisters. She stayed in close and frequent contact with family via telephone, visiting, and reunions. The love Shirley and all of her brothers, sisters, nieces, and nephews shared emanated from them like radiant sunshine. Shirley's unexpected and sudden passing was not only her family's loss, it was the world's loss, as well.

The family will receive friends, Thursday, June 16, 2022 from 10:00 AM until 11:00 AM at Grace Community Baptist Church in Bainbridge, GA., The funeral service will follow at 11:00 AM, with interment at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Chattahoochee, FL. Lifesong Funerals and Cremations (850-627-1111, www.lifesongfunerals.com) is assisting the family with their arrangements.




Events

Shirley Rudd-Stephens

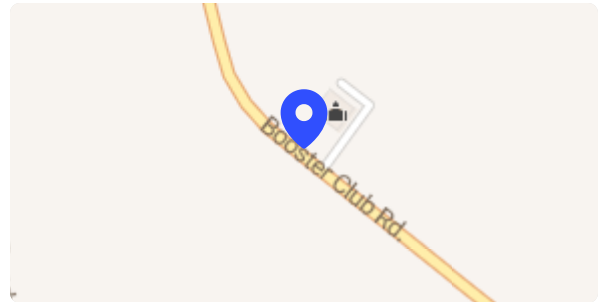
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Visitation


 **Thursday**, June 16, 2022


 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET


 **Grace Community Baptist Church**
2059 Booster Club Rd., Bainbridge GA 39819

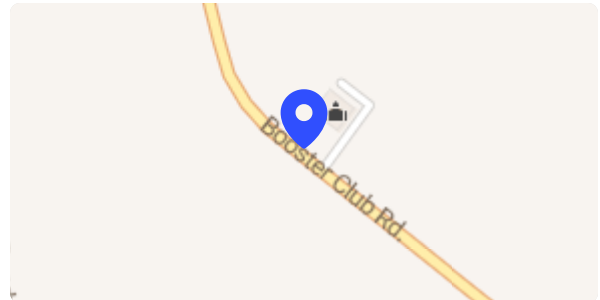


Service

 **Thursday**, June 16, 2022

 11:00 AM ET

 **Grace Community Baptist Church**
2059 Booster Club Rd., Bainbridge GA 39819





Tribute Wall

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TA

Tawanna lit a candle in honor of Shirley.

June 16 at 9:34 AM



SP

Shirley Rowan Presnal sent a virtual gift in honor of Shirley.

TO THE FAMILY OF SHIRLEY,WE ARE SO SAD TO HEAR OF SHIRLEY'S PASSING.SHIRLEY WAS A BEAUTIFUL CHRISTIAN LADY.YOU ALL IN OUR PRAYERS.MAY THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT CONSOLE YOU EACH AS ONLY HE CAN DO.ONE DAY AT A TIME SWEET JESUS.Shirley Rowan Presnal & Billy,Jason C. Kingry,Gladys E. Rowan

June 16 at 6:11 AM



TS

Thelma Stone posted:

My heart is broken at the loss of a dear friend from beginning in elementary school through now. Loved her dearly and was so glad I got to see her for a short while just before her birthday last year and give her a birthday hug. Such a wonderful gracious lady all her life. Will miss her so much. Love and prayers to all the familyThelma Blocker Stone

June 16 at 4:39 AM

DB

Donna Bass posted:

My heart is overwhelmed with sadness by the loss of my beautiful Aunt Shirley. She was my hero and always amazed me by her love and strength and constant prayers for us all to happy, healthy and Christ Like and if there was something of concern she would add it after like smoke free... I had several sleep overs at her house as I would always stop on my way to Daddy's in Laurel Hill. My favorite visit was when I stopped on my way home from California and I was able to stay a few days and we decorated her Christmas tree and listened to old southern gospel and country music tapes. My only comfort is that I know she is now with her Heavenly Father she dearly loved and Faith and Shane, my mama Mary and her other brothers and sisters. My heart felt love, prayers and condolences to Gene and Aunt Shirley's grand and great grandkids she loved so very much!

June 15 at 9:20 AM



Tribute Wall

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Dianne Wester posted:

I am so sorry to hear that Shirley has passed. She was a sweet dear friend and she will be greatly missed. Prayers for those who loved her and we will miss her

June 14 at 7:08 AM



Cookie Bradley posted:

Dear Family, My Prayers are with you all at this most difficult time. Shirley was a dear friend and will never be forgotten. Blessings to you all. Cookie Bradley & Family

June 13 at 11:18 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Shirley by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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