



## Doris Ann Mills

August 23, 1940 - October 28, 2021

Doris Ann Mills of Morristown passed away unexpectedly on October 28, 2021, at the age of 81.

Doris Ann was a life-long member of First Baptist Church. She worked as the secretary for Pastor Hicks in the 1950s, before starting a family of her own. She later helped lead the church's children's ministry alongside Don Needham for more than 20 years.

Loving wife and mother, Doris Ann demonstrated her faith through her life of servitude and generosity to all. Her children describe her as the most honest, caring, compassionate, and truly generous person they've ever known, always putting others' needs ahead of her own. Even in times of struggle, she would often tell her children, "Kindness doesn't cost you anything."

She acted as a "second Mom" for every kid in the neighborhood, babysitting numerous small children of other working mothers, and shuttling groups to and from school. She was affectionately referred to as "Mommy Doris Ann" by her nephew B.G., whom she helped care for until he started elementary school. Later in life, she cared for both her parents and her husband's parents, along with aunts, uncles, and others who were left abandoned in nursing homes, rarely visited by their own family members. Doris Ann never sought recognition or praise for her efforts. A humble servant to anyone in need, she gave of herself out of the kindness of her heart. She will be greatly missed by her children and loved ones.

Doris Ann was preceded in death by her husband of nearly 60 years, Donald R. Mills, and her parents, Garfield and Hazel Gibson. She is survived by her children, Todd Mills of San Diego, Tracy Heist (Allen) of Morristown, Donna Triplett (Chris) of Dandridge, and her only grandchild, Gracie Triplett of Dandridge. She is also survived by her sister, Jerilyn DeHart (Billy) and brother, Bobby Gibson (Diane), both of Morristown.

Immediate family and anyone else who would like to attend will meet at Mayes Mortuary

on Monday, November 1, 2021 at 10am for a procession to Hamblen Memory Gardens leaving at 10:30 for an informal graveside service.

# Comments

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“ Doris Ann was my cousin, and we all adored her! She and Don were so loving, warm, kind, fun, and good to all of us. My sister, Kim, and I have been raised in Maine. Our mom and Doris Ann's mom were sisters. Every other summer the four of us would drive to Tennessee to be with our family there. We still have a favorite photo of us as little girls riding on a pony in Doris Ann's yard. She was managing the horse's reins. And so began a lifelong bond with all of our cousins. We loved her goodness and joy in living, her empathy and love of life. Her obituary so beautifully captured her essence. So much love to Tracy, Donna Kay, and Todd for reflecting your parents' goodness. You are three lucky persons to have had such beautiful parents. Much Love, Becky Brynn and Kim

**Becky Brynn Clifford Pride** - October 31, 2021 at 12:00 AM

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October 29, 2021 at 12:00 AM