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## In Memory of Marjorie Ann Woods

JANUARY 31ST 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

### In Memory of Marjorie Ann Woods

Marjorie Ann Woods was born in St. Louis, Missouri on February 13, 1931. She entered eternal rest on Saturday, January 22, 2022, at the age of 90 years.

She was filled with love for her faith, her family, her friends and her hometown of Bernie, Missouri. She was known and appreciated for her compassion and her outreach to those in need. She had a warm and endearing personality and always made people around her feel comfortable. She made many lifelong friends in Missouri and Louisiana.

Her early years were spent in St Louis and Cane Creek, Missouri with her family. The family moved to Bernie in the middle of her sophomore year. She attended Bernie High School for two years and finished High School in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. While she lived in Bernie, she met the love her life R. B. Woods Jr. After Marjorie and R.B. were married in 1949, they moved to Bernie where she lived for 63 years. Ten years after the death of her beloved husband, she felt the need to move closer to her sons, Roy Bickford Woods III (wife-Ann F. Woods) and Gary Steven Woods (wife-Krystal D. Woods) and their families. Thus, she moved to Lake Charles, Louisiana and later to New Orleans.

She was a lifetime member of the Community of Christ Church. Her devotion led her to become an ordained Priest in her church. Marjorie was very involved in community service and always found ways to put her faith to work by helping others. She was a volunteer for "Meals on Wheels," Bernie Library and civic related activities in Bernie. She assisted her husband during his tenure of twenty-eight years as Mayor of Bernie. She also worked as a Census Taker, in the grocery business, the MFA facility and as local representative for the Bernie Paper. Since she had a great voice, she received several singing awards in her younger years. She excelled in water skiing. Because of her passion for flying, she learned how to fly and made a solo flight.

Marjorie was a loving and dedicated mother to her sons. Although she raised them in the small town of Bernie, she thought it was of utmost importance to expose her sons to cultural, civic, and social events. She took them to St. Louis to see a Broadway play, enrolled them in tap dance and piano lessons. She also was a fervent supporter of their schooling, extracurricular activities, and their obtaining a college education. Marjorie was blessed with wonderful grandchildren and great grandchildren. Though they all lived in Louisiana, she loved her role as grandmother and cherished her time with them. She had a very long life and will be missed by all. She requested that her final resting place be in her hometown of Bernie, Missouri next to her husband R.B. Woods Jr.

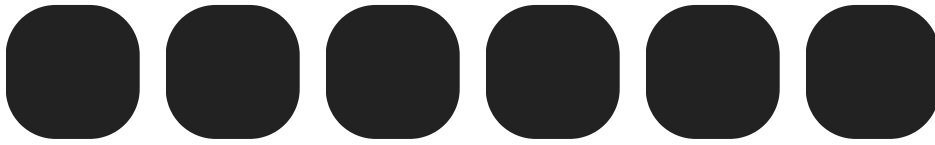
She is predeceased in death by her mother Mabel Tipton Fears, father Austin Archibald Fears, brothers Jim Edwards Fears, Jack Tipton Fears, and sister Helen Elizabeth Rubottom Baumgartner (Bette).

She is survived by her two sons and spouses, nine grandchildren and spouses and eighteen great grandchildren.  
A Celebration of Life and internment will be held in the spring in Bernie with dates to be announced later.

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## In Memory of Bonnie Sue Cannell

JANUARY 31ST 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

### In Memory of Bonnie Sue Cannell

Bonnie Sue Cannell, daughter of the late Quenten Cross and Lois Carl Cross Goza, was born on October 11, 1955, in Dexter, Missouri, and departed this life on January 26, 2022, at Southeast Health, in Dexter, Missouri, at the age of 66 years.

Mrs. Cannell was a minister for Faith Fellowship Bible Way Ministry in Dexter, Missouri and was a resident of Dexter. She was very charitable and would help take care of anyone in need. She enjoyed camping and fishing, and she loved her family.

On December 24, 2006, in Dexter, Missouri, she was united in marriage to Dan Cannell. Mr. Cannell survives of their home in Dexter.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her brother Johnny Monroe of Wappapello; by three sisters, Ester Rogers and Laura Barnes both of Poplar Bluff, and Dolores Long of Dexter.

Visitation will be held at Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter on Friday, January 28, 2022, from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Funeral services will then be conducted at Faith Fellowship Bible Way Ministry in Dexter on Saturday, January 29, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. Interment will follow in the Dexter Cemetery.

Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter is assisting with arrangements.

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# In Memory of Gladys Cordelia Hillis

JANUARY 30TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

## In Memory of Gladys Cordelia Hillis

Gladys Cordelia Hillis, daughter of the late James Edward Cochran and Hazel Odessa Moore, departed this life on January 26, 2022, at Southeast Health in Dexter, Missouri, at the age of 80 years.

Gladys was born on February 8, 1941, in the town of Cordele in Crisp County, Georgia. She lived many of her childhood years in Savannah, Georgia where she attended Savannah High School. Later she would attend Draughons Junior College.

On June 11, 1969, she was united in marriage to Bruce R Hillis in Americus, Georgia, and had three sons, J Darren Hillis born in Americus and Keith Edward Hillis and Kevin Franklin Hillis born in Dallas, Texas. After several years in Texas Gladys moved to Dexter, Missouri, where all three sons graduated Dexter High School.

Gladys was an avid bowler and loved spending time with friends bowling in leagues in Dexter and Sikeston, Missouri. She served many years as a volunteer and board member of the Kenny Rogers Children's Center in Sikeston, Missouri. In 2012 Gladys retired after 16 years of service from the Stoddard County Juvenile Detention Center.

Gladys enjoyed spending time watching her children and grandchildren in their school activities and loved cheering at their sporting events. Gladys had great compassion for animals and never met a stray cat or dog that wasn't taken in and given love, food and shelter.

She is survived by sons, Darren Hillis of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, Keith Hillis of Dexter, Missouri, and Kevin Hillis and his wife Erin of Springfield, Missouri, by four grandchildren, Rhylan Grace Hillis, Haden Gray Hillis, Kylie Danae McBride, and Kinsley Aileen Hillis, two great grandchildren, many cousins, and friends.

Besides her parents she was preceded in death by one sister, Shirley Beasley of Stone Mountain, Georgia and one brother Ronny Beckworth of Social Circle, Georgia and one special friend, Rob Henley of Sikeston, Missouri.

Visitation will be held at Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter on Monday, January 31, 2022, from 4:00 pm until 6:00pm.

A graveside funeral service will be conducted in Cordele, Georgia at a later date where Gladys will be laid to rest next to her mother in the Arabi-Antioch Cemetery.

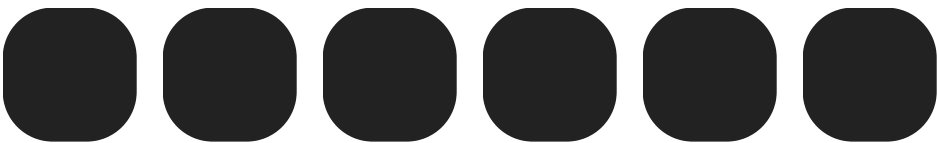
Memorials can be made to the Kenny Rogers Children's Center, 300 Floyd Drive, Sikeston, Missouri 63801.

Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter is assisting with arrangements.

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# In Memory of Benjiman P Vardell (Benny)

JANUARY 28TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

In Memory of Benjiman P Vardell (Benny)

Benjiman P Vardell (Benny) of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, son of the late Brady B and Hazel M Vardell born on July 24, 1947 in Puxico, Missouri and passed away on January 26, 2022 at Poplar Bluff Regional Medical Center in Poplar Bluff, Missouri of cardiac arrest at the age of 74 years.

Benjiman was a railroad engineer and a rancher until his retirement in 2008.

Benjiman is survived by two sisters Linda Vardell of Baldwin, Missouri and Kim (Bob) Lee of Puxico, Missouri; two nephews Stan (Lori) Vardell of Jonesboro, Arkansas and Tony (Ashley) Lee of Jackson, Missouri; three nieces Vicki (Brian) Stewart of Texarkana, Arkansas, Lisa (Callum) Reavey of Piedmont, Missouri and Amanda (Charlie) Kayser of Addis, Louisiana. He was preceded in death by his parents Brady and Hazel Vardell, two brothers Urah Vardell of Texarkana, Arkansas and Jarrell Vardell; one niece Amber Lee of Puxico, Missouri. A host of family and friends also survive.

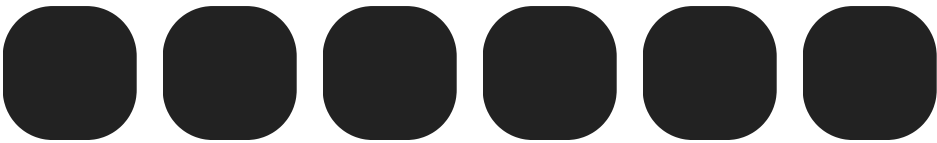
Visitation will be held on Friday January 28, 2022 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Watkins and Sons Funeral Home in Puxico, Missouri.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday January 29, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at the Watkins and Sons Funeral Home in Puxico, Missouri with Rev. Callum Reavey of Piedmont, Missouri officiating and Watkins and Sons Funeral Home of Puxico in charge of all arrangements.

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# In Memory of Bruce Gillespie

JANUARY 26TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

## In Memory of Bruce Gillespie

Bruce Gillespie, 65, passed away Monday, June 21, 2021, due to unexpected and unrelated complications following a stem cell transplant at Atrium's Carolinas Medical Center-Main in Charlotte, NC.

Bruce was born in Mt. Clemens, MI; the oldest child of Dale and Wava Gillespie. As a military family, they moved frequently during his childhood, and he eventually graduated from high school in Myrtle Beach, SC in 1974. Bruce then found his home and career in Charlotte, NC, where he thrived for more than 40 years in the commercial printing business. Bruce retired in 2019 after co-owning and operating City Graphics for 28 years.

He was a man of few words, but his actions spoke volumes for his character. He was trusted and respected in the business community, had an incredible work ethic, and was very loyal and dedicated to his family and friends. Bruce was mechanically gifted, a creative cook, and loved to be outside in the great outdoors. He enjoyed canoeing the NC rivers and streams with his brother Rodney, and recently took up working with stained glass again.

Bruce is survived by his wife Jane of Charlotte and daughter (his stem cell donor!) Anna of Washington, DC; his father Dale Gillespie (Dorothy) of Bloomfield, MO; brother Rodney (Karin) of Gastonia, NC; sister Gail of Dexter, MO; brother Kyle (Brenda) of Dexter, MO; father-in-law Rich Underwood of Rock Hill, SC, nephews Tyler (Danielle), Zack and Will; nieces Brooke, Rachel and Alex, and many dear friends.

His mother Wava preceded him in death in 2006.

For any who wish to honor Bruce's memory, please consider registering to be a bone marrow donor at [bethematch.org](http://bethematch.org) or donating to [aspc.com](http://aspc.com).

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