



Anna Ruth Presley

March 24, 1925 - August 23, 2024

Celebration of Life Services for Anna Ruth Presley, age 99, of Monterey, Tennessee, were conducted on Sunday, August 25, 2024, at 2:00 PM at the Monterey Church of The Nazarene. Rev. Billy Jones and Rev. Kevin Thomas officiated and interment followed in the Whittaker Cemetery. The family received friends at Goff Funeral Home on Saturday, August 24, 2024, from 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM and at Monterey Church of the Nazarene on Sunday, August 25, 2024, for the Celebration of Life Services at 2:00 PM.

Anna Ruth Presley was born on Tuesday, March 24, 1925, in Monterey, Tennessee, to the late Shirley Hedrick Matheney and Pearlie Belle Whittaker Matheney. She passed away on Friday, August 23, 2024, at her home. She was survived by her children, 2 sons & daughters-in law, Donald Ray (Cathy) Presley, Steve (Gloria) Presley; 2 daughters and sons-in law, Gail (Rev. Billy) Jones, Sharon (Eugene) Buckner; 9 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of almost 57 years, Donald W. Presley; brothers, Dewey Matheney, Tom Matheney, Cordell Matheney, and infant, Clarence Matheney; sisters, Willie Pearl Snodderly, Verna Morgan, and Mollie Matthews.

Anna grew up in Monterey and often regaled her children with tales of running through the woods and on the railroad tracks that ran through "Matheney Town" accompanied by her older brothers and her oldest sister, Willie. Her

children have determined that she was a bit of a daredevil as well as an adventurer before she settled down as a married woman. She graduated Monterey High School on May 14, 1944, and remembered that day as “more like a funeral than a graduation because all but two of the boys in the class had gone to war. Each name was called, and everyone cried throughout the ceremony.” Even in her battle with dementia, she fondly recalled memories of her best friend, Josephine Whittaker, wondering where she was now. As a young woman, she traveled alone to Ohio to take care of her newborn nephew Jack. Upon her return home, she worked at the Monterey Hosiery Mill, and then during WWII at Oak Ridge National Laboratory Y-12 plant, as a Calutron girl separating the uranium to build the bomb. Then on August 22, 1948, she and Donald eloped to Ringgold, Georgia. They returned home married, but did not tell anyone for 3 days. Her father-in-law guessed the secret and confronted her and Donald. Her in-laws were very happy to welcome her into their family, building a committed and devoted relationship with them, and she would become their caregiver in their later years. She and Donald worked side-by-side to build their “little white house”, planting and harvesting their gardens and cornfields, and teaching their children the value of a hard day’s work and a good night’s rest.

Once her 4 children were in school, she went to work at Monterey Uffelman Elementary School as a cook, daily preparing desserts for 400+ students and employees. She later became the cafeteria manager until retirement. She could make anything taste good. She was an accomplished seamstress, quilter, cook, caretaker, and an avid reader until her eyesight deteriorated and Dementia and Parkinson’s greatly affected her day-to-day activities. She knew how to do many of the arts of her generation such as canning, freezing, making soap, drying fruit for her delicious fried pies or 7-layer stack cake. No one makes chicken and dumplings as good as Gran does and she was an expert at making “real cornbread” from freshly ground cornmeal. The secret of course is “a pinch of this, and a pinch of that” and a well-seasoned cast iron skillet. She greatly enjoyed preparing food and feeding her family or the

unexpected guest.

Above all other things, she was a Christian and lived a life reflective of Christ in all she said and did. As a member of the Monterey Church of the Nazarene, she served many years as a children's SS teacher, nursery worker, and missionary society secretary. One of her greatest concerns was that all her children and their spouses, her grandchildren, and great grandchildren were saved and ready to go to heaven. She read and studied her Bible faithfully. After she was unable to read it herself, she would have Sharon read it to her and of course, she enjoyed "attending church" with her son Steve on Sunday mornings (Charles Stanley on TV). Her family have been amazed that even when her memory was at its worst, she could sing her favorite hymns- word for word. She even taught them a few new ones- their favorite being "Railway to Heaven".

"Her children arise and call her blessed" truly describes how we feel about our Mom and Granny!

Cemetery Details

Whittaker Cemetery

406 N. Elmore Street
Monterey, TN 38574

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **24**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

D.M. Goff Funeral Home, Inc.
205 E. Cleveland Ave.
Monterey, TN 38574
(931) 839-2311
<http://www.gofffh.com/>

Celebration Of Life Services

AUG **25**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Monterey Church Of The Nazarene
110 North Poplar Street
Monterey, TN 38574

Tribute Wall

MW

“ I just learned of Mrs. Presley’s passing. My condolences to the family. She was one of the sweetest and kindest people I have ever met. Remember her from the Nazarene Church and the schools. Always had a smile for us kids. I graduated same year as her son Donnie. Many years ago I stopped a by ‘the little white house and bummed flower seeds from her which she graciously gave me. She is now singing in heaven!

Marsha Walker Wilmoth - September 08, 2024 at 07:31 PM

BH

“ I am so sorry I just saw it in the newspaper that your mom had passed away. She was such a sweet lady. I’ll always remember her in the cafeteria. She always talked with all the kids made each one feel special. I know how hard it is to lose your mom. My mom has been gone several years now . Please give all your family my condolences. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, if there is anything we can do please let us know,



Bobbie Hotsinpillar - August 28, 2024 at 04:10 PM

LC

“ GLORIA AND SHARON AND ALL .So sorry for the families loss. PRAYERS FOR YOU ALL. LINDA BUCKNER CRAVENS



Linda Cravens - August 25, 2024 at 06:16 PM

LH

“ *Lola Harris lit a candle in memory of Anna Ruth Presley*



Lola Harris - August 25, 2024 at 07:43 AM

JS

“ *Surely we have been in presence of an angel all these years! Jenn*

Jennifer Staup - August 24, 2024 at 11:38 PM

JT

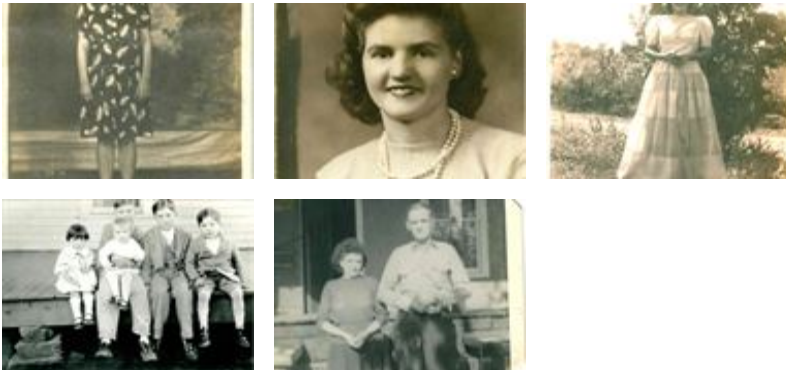
“ *Jeannie Templeton sent a virtual gift in memory of Anna Ruth Presley*



Jeannie Templeton - August 24, 2024 at 05:42 PM



“ *49 files added to the album Life Tributes*



D.M. Goff Funeral Home, Inc. - August 24, 2024 at 02:23 PM



“ *Larry and Diane Cates Vaughn*



Diane Vaughn - August 24, 2024 at 11:32 AM

AE

“ *Angela Eldridge-Baisley lit a candle in memory of Anna Ruth Presley*



Angela Eldridge-Baisley - August 24, 2024 at 11:04 AM

AB

“ *April Bohannon lit a candle in memory of Anna Ruth Presley*



April Bohannon - August 24, 2024 at 07:58 AM

BG

“ *Billy And Brenda Gentry lit a candle in memory of Anna Ruth Presley*



Billy and Brenda Gentry - August 23, 2024 at 09:31 PM

CN

“ *Connie & Roger Nichols lit a candle in memory of Anna Ruth Presley*



Connie & Roger Nichols - August 23, 2024 at 07:38 PM

AJ

“ *Love you Gran. Give pa a big hug from us.*

Andrew Jones - August 23, 2024 at 07:28 PM