



Billie Fortenberry

March 28, 1926 - April 19, 2015

Willie Sue “Billie” Fortenberry, 89, of Haleyville, Alabama passed away April 19, 2015 after a brief illness. She was born in Haleyville and had resided at Columbia Cottage in Florence, Alabama for three years. She was a member of the First Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 65 years, Ullman Jackson Fortenberry; parents, William Eldert and Lillie Mae Bates Cook; sisters, Millerine Howell, Marjorie Barber and Jo Dobbs; son in law, Duke Phillips.

She is survived by two daughters, Donna McCreary(Marc) and Carol Phillips of Florence, Alabama; her grandchildren, Ashli Smith(Florence), Ami Ross(Birmingham), Alison Gengelbach(Columbia, Tn), Katie Schomberg(Wayneville, N.C.) Leah McCreary(Nashville, Tn) and Andrew Phillips(Birmingham, Al); eleven great grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Scott Smith, Kenyon Ross, Carlyle Schomberg, Brandon Gengelbach, Andrew Phillips and Jackson Ross.

At her request and in her own words, the honorary pallbearers will be “all of the children that I taught in kindergarten.”

Mrs. Fortenberry retired from teaching kindergarten with her sister, Jo Dobbs

after 18 years. She was always involved with family, church activities and played the piano. As time went on she found her true calling and passion; history and research. As the “self appointed” town historian, she wrote the history of the railroads, First Baptist church and the Haleyville schools. Two years were spent gathering information for the Centennial Edition of the Northwest Alabamian. She worked with Don Dodd to publish his book “The Free State of Winston.” In 1998 she was named “Woman of Excellence” during the Haleyville Women’s conference and was Haleyville Alumnus of the year in 2004.

Visitation will be Friday, April 24, 2015 from 12 noon -1:00 p.m. and the funeral service will be from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Pinkard Funeral Home in Haleyville, Alabama.

The family wishes to express their heartfelt thanks to their friends for their loving support and to the staff at Columbia Cottage Assisted Living in Florence.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to First Baptist Church, 1103 21st St., Haleyville, Al 35565

You may leave condolences at pinkardfh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Pinkard Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Billie Fortenberry*



Pinkard Funeral Home - April 21, 2015 at 01:46 PM

LM

“ *Carol and Donna
The picture beside the words Talented, Christian, and Dedicated should be your Mother. Sorry for your loss but what great memories you must have. I would have been there but am out of town. Please know y'all are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Lyle and Shirley Mitchell

Lyle Mitchell - April 24, 2015 at 09:16 AM

KT

“ *We are so sorry to hear of your loss. We loved "Mrs Billie". She was my GA teacher and then she taught our children at Happy Hours. She always had a smile and was a very special lady. We will be unable to attend service on Friday but please know you are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Konnie & Wallace Thrasher

Konnie Thrasher - April 23, 2015 at 01:51 PM

JG

“ Donna & Carol - Our prayers, thoughts, love & hearts are with you & family - Ms. Fortenberry was really great to me when growing up in Haleyville!

Jerry & Patsy Gay - Clayton, NC

Jerry M Gay - April 22, 2015 at 04:51 PM

LB

“ Leah Mitchell Butler lit a candle in memory of Billie Fortenberry



Leah Mitchell Butler - April 22, 2015 at 04:26 PM

CS

“ Was saddened to hear of Mrs. Billie's passing. She was a neighbor to me and my family when I was a child and she was friends with my parents. May GOD Comfort the family.
Carol Shipman

Carol Shipman - April 22, 2015 at 11:49 AM

MW

“ Misty Wallace lit a candle in memory of Billie Fortenberry



Misty Wallace - April 21, 2015 at 06:46 PM



“ *Tiffany Harlan sent a virtual gift in memory of Billie Fortenberry*



Tiffany Harlan - April 20, 2015 at 10:56 PM



“ *Tiffany Harlan lit a candle in memory of Billie Fortenberry*



Tiffany Harlan - April 20, 2015 at 10:55 PM

WH

I told Julia what Billie requested about her Kindergarten children--Julia was among the first at the church. Julia said, "I loved Miss Billie and Miss Jo". No better legacy to leave , a bunch of children loving their teacher,in my opinion. Yes, we loved Billie and Ullman and so respected them and treasured their friendship. You girls were blessed and will so miss her now. But she is where she has waited to go for sometime. Wynell Howell (Mrs. Russell).

Wynell Howell - April 21, 2015 at 07:10 PM

VD

Love and sympathy in the loss of our beloved friend and historian. Enjoyed so many programs she and Ulman presented and loved her zest for life. God bless one and all.

Vicky B. Dean - April 22, 2015 at 07:40 AM

NK

so many precious memories of Miss Billie and Miss Jo all 3 of my children were in her kindergarten class and they loved both so much made sending my little ones to school the first year so easy they were happy to go. May God wrap all of her family in his loving arms their lives will live forever in the hearts of the children they taught

nelda Knight - April 22, 2015 at 07:45 AM