



## Mary Eileen Bowen

March 29, 1926 - July 8, 2024

Mary Eileen Bowen (née Byrnes), age 98, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on July 8, 2024. Eileen was born to Alice and John Byrnes on March 29, 1926, in Baltimore, Maryland. A spirited and rambunctious child, she gave her mother a run for her money, often running away from school until her father met her one day as she walked out the back of the building. As a child growing up through the Depression and a teen living through World War II, Eileen learned how to be thrifty and to stretch her resources, a trait that came in handy as she and her husband raised five children. She met Arthur Louis Bowen at a friend's house before he shipped out with the Navy during World War II. They married shortly after the war ended on July 28, 1945; thus began a life together that would span 67 years. They moved back to Arthur's hometown of Anniston and eventually settled in Guntersville where they raised their five children. Eileen and Arthur were active in their community, especially in square dancing, where they won numerous awards. Like many women of her generation, Eileen was a homemaker, running the household and keeping it in order, keeping everything in tiptop shape. She kept an immaculate house and swore that she needed to do a little of her chores every New Year's Day so that she would be able to keep doing them throughout the year. She kept growing too, learning to drive in her 30s and not giving up her license until she realized she couldn't see well enough anymore. Eileen was known for her incredible sense of humor and straight-shooting manner; she would let you know when you

crossed a line, but her smile and laugh were welcoming, and she made sure that everyone had a good time. She loved her family, taking care of her grandchildren for long periods in the summer and babysitting her great-grandchildren well into her 80s. Visits to Eileen's house meant custom-order breakfasts and a sit-down family-style lunch – people would never leave her house hungry. She remembered and acknowledged every birthday and anniversary with a perfectly timed card; her family swears she knew the mail delivery schedule for every state, and she gave everyone in the family a calendar with important family dates on it for Christmas every year. As she aged, she maintained her fierce independence, and her boys would rotate visiting to help her, but she refused to move out of her house, insisting she would die there. She always said the only way she would leave the house was when “they carry me out,” and she prevailed. She was truly one of the strongest of “The Greatest Generation,” and she has left a lasting family legacy of duty, responsibility, discipline, and love.

Eileen is survived by her four sons, John E. Bowen of Peachtree City, GA, Arthur L. Bowen, Jr. of Elkmont, AL, Robert D. (Ann) Bowen of Guntersville, AL, and William C. (Gwen) Bowen of Albertville, AL; God-daughter, Linda Brill; her daughters-in-love, Karen (Stephen) Rogers and Ann Latimer; grandchildren, John II (Jill), Robert (Nikki), and Joshua (Marcela) Bowen, Melissa Lindsey, Lyndsay Wood, Kylie Bowen, Cayla (Dustin) Jones, and grand-daughter-in-love, Anita Bowen; great-grandchildren: Patrick and Abigail Lindsey, Katie (Bryce) Blackwelder, Leah and Derek Wood, Reagan, Caleb, and Reese Bowen, Yonatan, Jesper, and Juliet Bowen, Virginia Brown, Katherine Bowen, Sydney and Lilly Little, and Lilly and Skeet Jones; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Arthur L. Bowen, daughter, Margeret B. Rogers; her son-in-law, Jack Rogers; her daughter-in-law, Dee Bowen; her grandson, Matthew Latimer; her brothers John “Boy” and Jimmy Byrnes; her sisters, Doris Brill and Louise (Weesie) Koontz.

Funeral service will be at 12:pm Thursday July 11, 2024, at Carr Funeral

Home. Visitation will be from 10:00am until time of service. Burial to follow at Marshall Memorial Gardens.

# Cemetery Details

## Marshall Memorial Gardens

Hwy 205 N.  
Albertville, AL 35950

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 11. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Carr Funeral Home  
1960 O'Brig Avenue  
Guntersville, AL 35976  
(256) 582-3411  
carrguntersville@gmail.com

## Funeral Service

JUL 11. 12:00 PM (CT)

Carr Funeral Home  
1960 O'Brig Ave  
Guntersville, AL 35976

# Tribute Wall



“ 71 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



---

**Carr Funeral Home Guntersville** - July 10, 2024 at 10:00 AM

AJ

“ *Anita, Yonatan, Jesper, and Juliet purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Mary Eileen Bowen.*



---

**Anita, Yonatan, Jesper, and Juliet** - July 10, 2024 at 03:28 AM

SB

“Aunt Eileen was the all encompassing "Mom". Her meals were the best, especially the Millionaire pie. She was a stern disciplinarian, but offered a wink and a treat later. She also had a great sense of humor. When we visited we always felt like we were "home". She will be missed. My sincere sympathies to my cousins and their families.

Dad also enjoyed her cooking and visits. He spoke with her on the phone these last few years and will miss her too. He sends his sympathies to his nephews and their families.

Really no words can describe the loss we all feel.

Sandy Sears and Paul Bowen “

---

**Sandy Sears and Paul Bowen** - July 09, 2024 at 04:41 PM



“Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Eileen Bowen.



---

July 09, 2024 at 10:47 AM

TB

“I always loved going to Uncle Louis and Aunt Eileen's house She made the best Sweet tea. Mom and I would leave Dad at home by himself so we could go swimming. I will miss you

Your nephew

Terry

---

**Terry Bowen** - July 08, 2024 at 08:18 PM

MG

“ *Mary Eileen Bowen has been my friend and mentor since 1955. We were blessed to have her in our lives being next door neighbors with the Bowen family, one girl and four brothers and Mr. Louis. I always needed her to get me out of trouble. Hugging a Christmas tree jumping from the couch, dropping my mommas favorite cookie jar lid, she glued back for me. My mom didn't realize it had been broken when she gave it to me later in life and I told her the story of her help.*

*We moved away in 1963 but we kept in touch through the years. She was so kind and sent me cards every birthday and anniversary, never missing one until this year.*

*I'm thankful to have called and talked to her just a few weeks ago. We laughed, reminisced as usual and got to exchange our I love yous, for the last time. My heart is broken, but she would not like that at all.*

*My sincere prayers and love to the boys and their families.*

*Mary Murph Burnett Gamble*

---

**Mary Murph Burnett Gamble** - July 08, 2024 at 06:33 PM