



Mrs. Gladys B Porter

November 29, 1935 - May 12, 2025

Gladys B. Porter, 89, passed away peacefully in her sleep on May 12, 2025. Gladys was born on November 29, 1935, in Brewton, Alabama. Being a wife and mother were the cornerstones of her life, and she found profound joy in raising her five children with her first husband, Gene Austin, whom she married in 1952. While being a full-time mom, she had her first job at the Bell Telephone Company and later helped build a successful family business, Austin Saw and Knife. A woman of strong Christian faith, Gladys lived with grace, kindness, and unwavering love for her family. She dearly loved her children, grandchildren, and all the generations that followed—finding joy and pride in each of their lives. True to her nickname, “Happy”, she embraced life with joy and enthusiasm. Never one to miss an opportunity for adventure, whether deep-sea fishing or parasailing at the age of 65. She loved to read and had a lifelong passion for learning. She was also a die-hard Alabama football fan. Gladys was preceded in death by her third husband of seven months, Joseph Porter; her second husband of eight years, Sonny Chappell; and her first husband of forty nine years, Gene W. Austin. She was also preceded by her parents, Nicholas G. Baggett and Francis Darley Baggett; two children, Ed Wayne Austin of Marietta, Georgia, and Vikki Cooper of Foley, Alabama; three brothers—Ed G. Baggett, Jullian Baggett, and Allen Baggett—and two sisters, Nettie B. Schultz and Anne B. Ready. She is survived by her three children: Peggy J. Shoemaker of Santa Fe, Texas; Kathy B. Saxon of Elberta, Alabama; and Christopher A. Austin of Crystal

Lake, Illinois. She also leaves behind 14 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren (plus one on the way), and six great-great-grandchildren. Gladys is also survived by her sister, Christine Cranford, and her brother, Nicholas G. Baggett Jr., both of Plymouth, Michigan. Her light, love, and laughter will continue to shine through the lives she touched. She will be dearly missed.

A memorial celebration of her life will be scheduled at a later date.