



Mrs. Shirley Ruth Cook

March 6, 1935 - May 27, 2023

Shirley Ruth Cook, age 88, of Orange Beach, Alabama, passed away on Saturday, May 27, 2023, surrounded by her family at Westminster Village in Spanish Fort, Ala.

Shirley was born March 6, 1935 in Tower City, Pa., to Walter and Ruth Bowman. She married her high school sweetheart, George “Bud” Cook, on June 19, 1953 and he preceded her in death after 50 years of marriage. Shirley is survived by her two children, Michael (Lauri) Cook of Acworth, Ga., and Cheryl (John) Korte of Fairhope, Ala.; four grandchildren, Aaron (Bobbi) Korte, of Upper Sandusky, Ohio, Tiffany Korte of Daphne, Ala., Alexandra Riley of Acworth, Ga., and Michael Cook Jr. of Acworth, Ga.; six great-grandchildren, Zach (Hope) Korte of Ponce de Leon, Fla., Ethan, Hope and George Korte of Upper Sandusky, Ohio, Andrew Korte of Daphne, Ala., and Aiden Riley of Acworth, Ga.

She is also survived by a sister, Dolores Charnock of Midland, Va., and her brother, Jim (Barbara) Bowman, of Littleton, Colo., as well as several nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, her sister Joan Doggendorf and a great-great-granddaughter Elizabeth Anne Korte.

She attended Eastern High School in Baltimore, Md., and graduated from Lansing Community College with an associate’s degree in Arts.

She volunteered and was later hired at the American Cancer Society in Fairfax, Va. She also worked at D’Arcy MacManus Masius in Bloomfield Hills,

Mich., and The Patent Trader in Mount Kisco, N.Y. But her real passion was volunteering. She gave her time over the years at Save-A-Pet Animal Shelter, public television fundraising, Our Lady of the Gulf Altar Rosary Society, Alabama Gulf Coast Convention and Visitor's Bureau and working with second graders at Summerdale Elementary.

Shirley was unbeatable in any word game and leveraged that knowledge in crossword puzzles and Wheel of Fortune. She also enjoyed reading, watching Jeopardy, playing cards with her friends and spending time with her family. The family would like to thank Gentiva Hospice for their care of their mother, particularly her nurse Amber Champion.

A memorial Mass will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 3, at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church in Gulf Shores, Alabama. Family will receive friends at 10 a.m. in the church hall.

Shirley requested that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Little Sisters of the Poor, 1655 McGill Ave., Mobile, AL 36604 or the Christian Service Center, 317 Dolphin Ave., Gulf Shores, AL 36542.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church
317 E 23rd Ave
Gulf Shores, AL 36542
(251) 968-7062

Mass

JUN 3. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church
317 E 23rd Ave
Gulf Shores, AL 36542
(251) 968-7062

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Shirley Ruth Cook*

October 04, 2023 at 01:12 PM



“ *I had the pleasure of getting to know Mrs. Cook and her family these last several months. They are a wonderfully caring family and Mrs. Cook was so blessed to have them. I enjoyed talking to Mrs. Cook about reading, her life, and her family. My prayers are with you all during this time. Thank you for allowing me to care for her.*

Amber Champion - July 11, 2023 at 03:35 PM



“ *How do you put a lifetime of memories of someone who was your big sister, but growing up felt more like your mom, into just one memory? You don't, except to say I'm a better person for having you in my life. Barb and I can never thank you enough for the love and support you gave us over the years. With love, Jim*

Jim Bowman - June 12, 2023 at 11:44 AM

GD

“ My friend of 49 years is dearly missed. I already feel a void on my calendar, of our almost monthly phone chats, for many years, and our previous e-mails. We first met in 1974 and were friends ever since, even when I moved to Dallas in 1980. We both understood the true communication effort it takes to keep a long-distance friendship alive, and I'm so grateful for that. The write up about our dear Shirley, caught the essence of the friend I knew. She always cared about her friends, and helping others, and had a passion for volunteering. I am so blessed to have known her, and to have 49 years of cherished encounters and memories. ~ Gail Durbin

Gail Durbin - June 08, 2023 at 02:15 PM

VC

“ Shirley was a great traveling companion. We drove hours by car and bus back in the 90's to visit family and friends in North Alabama and New York. Stopped to eat and shop for items to remember our trips. We always had things to talk about that made us laugh. I was the driver and Shirley was the travel director. We were a good team. Back in the 90's no cell phones to take photos. As we got older our memories got hazy of some of the places we visited. But our friendship never faded. We loved playing Bingo, Dominos and Card games with friends. In the last few years it was difficult seeing her fear of falling grow more and more, which enabled her to get out of bed. She accepted this change in her life like only Shirley could. The last gift she gave Anne and I was visiting her and thinking she wouldn't know us, but instead she called us by name as we entered her room and spoke with us for 1 /1/2 hours as if nothing had changed. So we honor that memory and Shirley will live on in us forever.

Vivian Castano - June 06, 2023 at 03:28 PM