



Nell Hester Bedford

March 18, 1937 - January 16, 2021

Nell Hester Bedford passed away at the North Alabama Regional Medical Center in Florence, Alabama on January 16, 2021 at the age of 83. She had been in relatively good health prior to testing positive with COVID – 19 which took her life in less than two weeks. Nell is survived by her daughter Kaye (Brad) Botes of Birmingham, AL; grandsons Bradford Botes, Jr. of Encinitas, CA and Philip Botes of Birmingham, AL; granddaughter, Meredith (James) Thompson of Decatur, AL; sister Beth (J.D.) Robinson of Russellville, AL and a host of beloved nephews, nieces, stepchildren, extended family and friends. She was predeceased in death by daughter Lea Anne (“BeBe”) Benson, her stepson Franklin Bedford, her father Woodrow Hester, her mother Lila Malone Hester, and her brother Billy Don Hester.

Nell was born on March 18, 1937 in Russellville, AL. She graduated from Russellville High School in 1955 and spent most of her life in or near Russellville where she had many friends and loved ones. Nell loved her two daughters dearly and always worked hard to support them. She worked for numerous employers including Grissom Motor Company, Citizens Bank, First National Bank, the Franklin County Times and as Chief Clerk of the Franklin County Commission. Nell loved working in the Franklin County Courthouse and was a fixture there for many years. She also served Franklin County by serving as a member of the A.W. Todd Centre Building Authority which was formed in 1998 to plan the creation of the Centre. Nell was always active in politics and a proud member of the Democratic Party. She took pride in and spent countless hours working on the many campaigns of her nephew, Roger Bedford, Jr.

After her retirement, Nell moved to Muscle Shoals, AL and remained very active. She always loved maintaining her garden and completed courses to become a Master Gardener. She also served on the board of the Alabama Retired State Employee Association and completed a term as its President in 2020.

Nell made many friends in the Muscle Shoals area but maintained a special friendship with Jimmy Dodson. Jimmy and Nell took many exciting trips with their friends, spent time with each other’s families, supported each other during difficult times and generally just took care of one another. Nell’s family is grateful to Jimmy and his family for their friendship and support.

Nell's family is also very grateful to her nephew, John Bedford, who loved and cared for her during her later years. Nell loved John like a son and enjoyed spending time with him, his wife Julia, their two children Audrey and Lawson and their other "four-legged child" Sophie.

Although Nell had many friends and stayed busy with work and hobbies, her greatest pride was in her two daughters and her grandchildren. Bradford, Meredith and Philip knew Nell as "Grampsi" and loved her dearly. Although she lived a hundred miles away, she made sure to be present for almost all of their important activities while growing up. She loved to cook for them, taught them to fish off the pier, showered them with gifts and just generally always made them feel that they were important. But most of all, she showed them how to love others. Nell was a compassionate and loving person. She always put others first and set a loving example for her grandchildren, and all of us, to learn from. No memorial service or funeral is planned at this time. Should friends desire, contributions may be sent to either the Old Brick Presbyterian Church or the Russellville First Baptist Church. The family also asks that you wear your masks, maintain social distancing and work together to overcome this terrible pandemic so that fewer obituaries such as this must be written.

Comments



“ I was deeply saddened to learn of Nell’s death. We were life long friends and I would always visit with her every time I returned home. She was just a special lady and loved by all who knew her. I am so thankful to have had her friendship since we were six years old. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family and may God give you comfort in the days ahead.

Roger Andrews - January 24 at 02:19 PM



“ Knew Nell for years in school, worked together, and she was a very dear, dear friend for many years. It is hard to believe that she is gone, but have so many good memories. Rest in Peace dear friend. Loved you very much and we never got to share that dinner that we talked about all the time.

shirley lindsey - January 22 at 03:44 PM



“ I will miss you so much Aunt Nell but I know you are with God and your loved ones. Your love and kindness will not be forgotten.

Hi Bedford-Roberson - January 22 at 07:49 AM



“ Mary Flippen lit a candle in memory of Nell Hester Bedford



Mary Flippen - January 21 at 02:03 PM



“ I always new how to brighten Ms. Nell's day when talked prior to ARSEA meetings. I would ask about her nephew Roger Bedford. She loved to talk about him.

Thomas O. Moore

Thomas O. Moore - January 20 at 06:23 PM



“ Nell was a very loving and caring person. My husband, James Coman got to know her through the Retirement Association, ARSEA/APEAL. Nell was always willing to help out in any way that was needed. She willingly offered her talents. She was very knowledgeable about many things. She graciously served as President of the ARSEA/APEAL Board. We were always amazed at her energy and will to help others and represent the Retirement Board. She was also very family oriented and cherished her family. She often spoke lovingly about them. She was able to spend time with her daughter in Birmingham when she was scheduled to attend meetings. I met her daughter during some of the Board meetings. We felt a connection to Nell because she was from our area. We will truly miss her warm smile and cheerful energetic spirit.

James and Thykle Coman
So very sorry for your loss.

Thykle Coman & James Coman - January 19 at 08:13 PM



“ I am saddened. I met Ms Nell ~30 years ago when she was Chief Clerk of the Franklin County Commission. Y'all have my sympathy.

Ernie Fite - January 19 at 06:30 PM



“ Nell was a gracious lady that everyone enjoyed being around. Thoughts and prayers for her family during this difficult time.

Judy Smith - January 19 at 12:18 AM



“ She was a beautiful lady in every sense of the word. She will never be forgotten by me. Rest In Peace Nell! Martha Jeffrey’s

martha jeffreys - January 17 at 04:44 PM



“ When she was administrator for Franklin County I audited their records She was always patient kind and professional. Sorry for your loss

roger glenn vaughn - January 17 at 12:27 PM