



Mae Wilkins

July 3, 1922 - January 13, 2018

B. Mae Wilkins, 95 of Searcy passed to her heavenly home Saturday, January 13 at her home in Searcy. She was born on July 3, 1922 to the late Rosetta (Cross) Vickers and William Vickers of Romance, Arkansas. At age 3, after losing her parents, she was placed in the loving care of her Aunt and Uncle Beulah and Robert Byrd of Romance, Arkansas. They were known to her as "Mama" and "Papa". Mae was a loving Christian Mother to her 4 children. She loved to fish, sing and travel with her family. Mae and Henry "Cotton" Wilkins Sr. owned and operated Mae's Shoes in Searcy for approximately 25 years. She loved all of her wonderful customers, friends and neighbors. Mae was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years, Henry E. "Cotton" Wilkins, Sr.; daughter, Carolyn Wilkins Hobson and Jerry Hobson (son-in-law) of Searcy; son, Henry E. Wilkins Jr. of Batesville; sister, Ada Sue Kelly of Searcy; brother, Bill Vickers of McRae, Arkansas and a half brother, Jess Qualls of Heber Springs. She is survived by her son, James C. Wilkins (Nancy) of Littleton, Colorado; daughter, Debbie Wilkins Cato (Laymon) of Searcy; grandsons, Jerry M. Hobson of Atlanta, Georgia, David Wilkins (Brandise) of Batesville, Kevin Cato of Searcy, John Wilkins (Peou) of Batesville, Arkansas; granddaughters, Lana Wilkins Schueler (Russ) of Ft. Collins, Colorado, Jamie Wilkins Gaboriau (Brian) of Littleton, Colorado, Sherri Wilkins Black (Shannon) of Conway, Arkansas, Delayna Cato Miller of Cabot, Arkansas; 17 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Special thanks go to Marvin Ferren of Kensett, Arkansas. Marvin has been a wonderful friend to Mae and family for many years. Special appreciation to Summit Hospice and their staff, who gave wonderful care to our Mother during her illness.

Visitation will be Thursday, January 18 at 10:30am.

Funeral Service will also be Thursday at 1:00pm, both at the Powell Funeral Home Chapel.

Cemetery Details

Apple Hill Cemetery

Ward, AR

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 18. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services (Searcy)
2602 W. Beebe-Capps Expy
Searcy, AR 72143
(501) 268-7220
searcy@powellfuneralhome.net
<https://www.powellfuneralhome.net/>

Funeral Service

JAN 18. 1:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

PH

“ Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Mae Wilkins



Powell Funeral Home - January 18, 2018 at 05:39 PM

CR

“ Today I was thinking about Mae and looked her up on the internet and although probably no one will read this as it is being posted 7 years late, I just need to say how she influenced my life. We moved to Searcy to open a business and rented the house where her shoe store was. It was my husband and three daughters. She made us feel so welcome to Searcy and praised our little family so much. She showed me how to be a strong woman in business while still being a mother. She spoke from experience and helped me to gain confidence. It was hard to see her liquidate her business and see her letting go of that part of her life. I have lovely thoughts of her and I can only believe her family still aches for her as they carry her essence through their own accepting and loving nature.

Cas Rifkin - July 01, 2025 at 02:40 PM

SH

“ I've met and known some amazing women in the course of my life but today, one of the most special that I've held dear, will be laid to rest. Her name is Mae "Mamaw" Wilkens. Great-grandmother to my children, and role model to me. When I first met her 28 years ago, I was completely fascinated. A true matriarch, guiding and encouraging her family as it grew and prospered. Full of love, energy, and a little mischief, I'd never met anyone like her. She bought land and houses, traveled the world, ran several businesses, to include a chain of shoe stores; all while cooking up a storm, taking the grandkids "fishin" and tending to her garden and animals. To say she was a Virtuous Woman would be an understatement! When you were with her, she made you feel special and you always had a good time. She always had a fun story to tell and when she did, there would always be a little "wink". She loved to "rock babies" and was blessed with lots of grandkids to do that. She also loved the Lord and loved to sing. We sang together often with my daughters with big smiles!

She taught me so much whenever she came and stayed at my home, and I was blessed to travel Europe with her. Wow, did we have a time together! Even when I would be down the road staying with Mom and Dad, I would always try to stay at least one day with her at her home. We would eat, look at photos, tell stories, and nap!haha. My gosh, the memories we made, there is so much more I could tell...

Oh Mae, time and situations took me away from you, but you never left my heart and you never will! I've always loved and cherished you.

Rest in peace sweet lady,
Sandra Hobson

Sandra Hobson - January 18, 2018 at 12:57 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mae Wilkins.*



January 17, 2018 at 03:05 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mae Wilkins.*



January 17, 2018 at 02:21 PM



“ *Debbie, My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family. Such a wonderful lady. Linda Thatcher (Loporto).*

John Linda Loporto - January 16, 2018 at 08:54 PM



*So sorry for your loss Sherri and prayers for comfort and pease. ❤️
Sheila Connors*

sheila connors - January 17, 2018 at 05:09 PM



“ *Debbie, my deepest sympathy is going out to you at this difficult time . Prayers for all family.*



Rebecca Holeman-Harris - January 16, 2018 at 08:45 PM

MH

“ Cotton's mother (Florence) and my grandmother -
Cora Shipman VanPelt were sisters.
Always enjoyed visiting with Cotton &
Mae. I guess that makes us distant cousins to some of you.

*Loretta Piker Holland
Bradford,AR*

Myrtle Loretta Holland - January 16, 2018 at 02:02 PM

MB

*Debbie, sending my love and prayers to you and all the family. Mae
was a wonderful lady and will be greatly missed.*

Mildred Black - January 17, 2018 at 09:02 AM