



Shirley Atkinson Powell

May 2, 1930 - May 6, 2015

Mrs. Shirley Mae Atkinson Powell of 202 Forest Dr. South Boston, VA died Wednesday, May 06, 2015. She was born in Pittsylvania County, VA May 2, 1930 and made South Boston her home since September 1959. She was the daughter of Mr. John Albert Atkinson and Mrs. Ilah Mae Moorefield Atkinson, Java, VA and was married to Mr. Earl Gunn Powell. She was a graduate of Spring Garden High School class of 1948 in Pittsylvania County and graduating Class of 1950 at Virginia Commercial College, Lynchburg, VA. She was predeceased by her parents, two brothers, John Clifton Atkinson and E. L. "Pete" Atkinson, a sister, Frances Atkinson Hall Brumfield and a step-son Dennis Wayne Wilborne. She was the last surviving member of her family.

She was the first elected woman official for the City of South Boston and appointed Deputy Commissioner of the Revenue from 1960 until 1972. She then was elected Commissioner of the Revenue until her retirement in 1991. She was a member of the Commissioner of the Revenue Association, local Government Official's Conference and VALECO. She also was Assessor and Disaster Coordinator for South Boston.

Mrs. Powell was a member of First Baptist Church, served as a deacon, choir member, Sunday School pianist for Adult III assembly until it ended. She was a member and treasurer for the Fidelis Sunday School Class and pianist for the Lacy Bible Sunday School Class until her health failed. Also served on

several committees. Before joining First Baptist in 1976, she was a member of Second Baptist Church for 12 years and served as adult choir director, led singing for children in revivals, assisted as church pianist, Sunday School Teacher and pianist in the Junior Dept. for Girls, served in Women's Missionary Union and Girls Auxillary, Training Union and Vacation Bible School. She greatly enjoyed volunteer work and played the piano at Boston Commons Retirement Home, all the Nursing Homes for Minister and Groups including Circles at First Baptist Church.

She is survived by her devoted husband and closest friend, Earl Gunn Powell of the home; god-daughter and great niece, Geri Regina Hall Rheinheimer, Douglasville, GA; god-daughter, Sarah Brynes Rosche, South Boston, god-son William Jeff Cuneo, Chester, VA, step-daughter, Cynthia Gayle Wilborne Bradley and husband, Edward, Glen Allen, VA; sister-in-law, Lois Jones Atkinson, Williamsburg, VA; two nieces, Sandra Atkinson of Richmond, and husband, Jack, Lake Jackson, TX; Elois Brumfield Hooker and husband Bobby, Ringgold, VA; three nephews, Raymond L. Hall, Sr. Smiths Station, AL; Dexter I. Atkinson and wife Debbie, Williamsburg, VA; Frank V. Atkinson, Rex, GA; special friend, Lindy Lloyd Heath and husband Gary, Roxboro, NC; nephews: many special friends and a precious dog, Hunter.

There will be no visitation; however, everyone is invited to visit and sign the guest register at Powell Funeral Home.

Graveside funeral service will be held in Halifax Memorial Gardens at 2 p.m. Friday, May 8, 2015 with the Rev. Dave Anderson and the Rev. Susan Davis, officiating. Mrs. Becky Hutcherson will sing "Going Home" composed by Antonin Dvorak, Symphony No. 9 – Largo.

Pallbearers serving are Eddie Powell, Gene Faucette, Mike Wilborne, Carlyle Wimbish, John Taylor and Rick Hutcherson.

For memorials, consider First Baptist Church, c/o Bus Fund, 815 N. Main St., South Boston, VA 24592, Halifax Regional Hospice, 2204 Wilborn Ave., South Boston, VA 24592 or Halifax Humane Society, P. O. Box 969, South Boston, VA 24592

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Tribute Wall

KH

“ Wonderful memories with Aunt Shirley and I love her dearly. May she rest in peace.

Kay Hill - May 08, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ God bless the family in their time of loss. Lots of wonderful memories of Shirley, wonderful woman and the best mentor. So many wonderful memories of the time she spent with me as a young girl growing up. I loved her dearly and she will be greatly missed.

Cheryl W Mills - May 08, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ I Corinthians 13:13 - And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.
Earl,
This verse will always remind us to celebrate Shirley's life with great joy. She was so much more than an Aunt... with you always at her side, she was the loving heartbeat of our family. Over the years we have shared so many special moments and memories with you both. For us, your love for each other will remain the most important family legacy that we will cherish. We have always watched your kindness, affection and care for each other with great admiration - and we continue to say you all are the couple we aspire to be!
Our journey continues and Heaven is home. So grateful that our beloved Shirley is there and waiting for us all.

Dexter and Debbie Atkinson - May 08, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Earl, we send our deepest sympathy and love. She was a special lady. Prayers are for you.

Claude and Virginia Martin - May 07, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ My heart breaks at the loss of Shirley, she is one of the sweetest people I have ever met. She was so blessed with her husband Earl. Earl, you and your family are in my heart, thoughts , and prayers. I love you and May God Bless You and give you strength to deal with this.

Dianne Davis

Dianne Davis - May 07, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NN

“ Dear Earl,
So sorry to hear of the lost of Shirley. She was a very sweet person. She will be missed my many.
May God be with you at this time of need.
My Prayers are with you.

NITA POWELL NEWCOMB - May 07, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Earl, we are so sorry to hear of Shirley's passing. We know there are worse things than death but it is still hard to lose someone we love. May God be your comfort and strength at this sorrowful time. She will be greatly missed by many. I am so glad that I knew her for many years. I know it is comforting to know she is no longer in pain and is with our blessed Savior. You have our deepest sympathy.

SC & Judy Martin - May 07, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *Shirley was a wonderful woman and will missed. You are in our thoughts and prayers.* ”

Jack and Patricia Conway-Morana - May 07, 2015 at 12:00 AM