



Shirley Machen Murphy

May 20, 1935 - November 29, 2019

3 John 4: I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in the truth.

Shirley M. Murphy, 84 years old, went to live with her Lord on November 29, 2019.

Shirley was born in Elizabethton, TN, to Alton and Seville Machen. She is preceded in death by her parents, brothers Alton Machen Jr. and Billy Jack Machen, and Best Friend and Sister, Mary (Carolyn) Bradley and grandson Andrew Herget.

Shirley leaves to mourn her loving husband of 66 years, William Carroll Murphy Sr.; children, Dr. William (Bill) Murphy Jr. of West Hollywood, CA, Darrell Murphy (Janice) of Johnson City, TN, Angela Herget (Alfred) of Knoxville, TN, K.C. Murphy (Tammy) of Dallas, TX, Velma Murphy of Tallahassee, FL, and Leland Murphy (Michelle) of Knoxville, TN; seven grandchildren, Keila, Aaron, Preston, Yasmin, Madison, Machen, and Autumn Grace; two great-grandchildren, Myles and Malia; siblings Ann McConnell (Charles) and Jerry Machen (Linda) and many nieces and nephews.

Shirley was a graduate of Langston High School where she was a member of the Glee Club and a vocalist in the Langston Orchestra. She was also a cheerleader and a member of the girls' basketball team.

She was an employee of the Johnson City police department for over 20 years serving as a school crossing guard at North Side Elementary School.

Primarily a homemaker, she was a great cook and freely provided wholesome meals continuously for the sick and shut-in or wherever she saw a need. Shirley loved children. She not only taught them in Sunday school but rose early to prepare breakfast for those children to eat prior to sharing the gospel of the love of Jesus. Shirley's love for children reached internationally she sponsored a child yearly for 30 years via Child Fund International.

Shirley was the co-founder of the Gracie Norris Missionary Circle at Friendship Baptist Church. Shirley was also a founding member of the Bertha Ellis Chapter of the University of Tennessee Home Extension Club. She served on the Board of the Bertha Ellis Girls Club, was a member of Church Woman United, a member of Johnson City Monday Club, and participated in a weekly women's bible study for over 30 years. She was a charter member of Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Shirley was a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church in Gray, TN.

A public viewing will be held from 12:00pm until 2:00pm Thursday December 5, 2019 at the Birchette Mortuary Chapel.

Interment will be held at 9:00am Friday December 6, 2019 at Snyder's Memorial Gardens, 5913 Kingsport Hwy Gray TN., prior to the Celebration of Life.

The family will receive friends at Oak Grove Baptist Church, 396 Oak Grove Rd, Gray, TN 37615 on Friday, December 6th at 1:00 PM with a celebration of life service to begin at 2:00 PM.

Previous Events

Interment

DEC 6. 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM (ET)

Snyder's Memorial Gardens
5913 Kingsport Hwy
Gray, TN 37615

Visitation

DEC 6. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Oak Grove Baptist Church
396 Oak Grove Rd
Gray, TN 37615

Service

DEC 6. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Oak Grove Baptist Church
396 Oak Grove Rd
Gray, TN 37615

Tribute Wall



“ *Shirley Machen Murphy*

January 29, 2023 at 10:28 PM



“ *Jerome McCray lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



Jerome McCray - April 03, 2021 at 03:06 PM



“ *Clinton&Pam Rollins lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



Clinton&Pam Rollins - January 27, 2020 at 02:13 PM

DP

“ I'm sorry to say that I did not know Mrs. Murphy. But knowing that so often children are a true reflection of their parents, and privileged as I was to have been a schoolmate of Velma's, I can imagine what a great lady Mrs. Murphy was.

While Mr. Murphy, Velma, and the rest of their family have joy knowing that Mrs. Murphy is now in a better place, I pray that our Lord may wrap His arms around them and give them peace.

Dan Pence

Dan Pence - January 03, 2020 at 07:20 PM

PR

“ *Patria Rhea lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



Patria Rhea - December 09, 2019 at 08:40 PM

CE

“ Shirley was the matriarch and fashion diva of our Silver Sneakers class. I remember one of the instructors complimenting her on a jacket that she was wearing in class that day. Shirley replied "you can have it when I pass". I can't remember which instructor it was because we were all jealous of her wardrobe. Whoever inherits her wardrobe will be greatly blessed, but no more than anyone who had crossed paths with this very special lady. She left foot prints on our hearts. We all admired her "spunk" in keeping up with us "senior youngsters" in the 10 a.m. exercise class @ Life Style Gym. May the Peace of Jesus and Comfort of the Holy Spirit sustain all those many friends and family members during this trial until we joint her in her Eternal Home. God Bless, Charlene Elliott

Charlene D Elliott - December 07, 2019 at 01:04 PM

MW

“ Carroll, we are thinking of you and praying for you and your family. We will miss seeing Shirley's beautiful smile at One Acre Cafe. May God give you comfort and peace during this time.



Michelle Watts - December 06, 2019 at 02:48 PM

GF

“ Beautiful women, wife and mother. So thankful for the wonderful counsel she gave to all the "little girls" that grew up at Friendship.

Rest in Peace Mrs. Shirley for a job well done.

Geneva Fain

Geneva Fain - December 06, 2019 at 10:00 AM

AP

Shirly was always such a beautiful kind lady inside & out ! Always love hearing sweet Carroll tell stories of Ms Shirley keeping him in line. My favorite was about her PRAYING! I love them both so very much . God's got this! So sorry for your loss sweet friends!!

Alisa Payne - December 07, 2019 at 12:04 PM

JK

“ I want to thank Mrs. Murphy for entertaining my brother Chris, when he decided to wander out the back door of 811 N Boone St and make the trek down the alley to W Chilhowie to play with Leland's Hot Wheels set. Secondly, thank you Mrs. Murphy for allowing us boys to play football in your backyard. Last, thank you for being one of the many mothers in the village of JC that helped raise me, all the while raising and teaching your own children. We are going to miss you. James Knaff

James Knaff - December 06, 2019 at 08:11 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Shirley Machen Murphy.



December 05, 2019 at 10:40 PM

CB

“ Carol Bradley lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy



Carol Bradley - December 05, 2019 at 09:02 PM

RB

“ Renee And Robert Bready lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy



Renee and Robert Bready - December 05, 2019 at 08:30 PM

RB

“ Mrs. Murphy (and I always called her Mrs. Murphy) expected the best from those she loved as she demanded it from herself. I have known her from the time I moved to Johnson City as a teenager and have been fortunate to have had her in my life ever since. I am grateful to have called her, as well as, all the members of the Murphy family my friends. While we will miss her, those who she influenced will forever carry her positive messages of strength, high expectations and love. Rest in Peace, Mrs. Murphy, and thank you for being my friend.

Renee and Robert Bready - December 05, 2019 at 08:21 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Shirley Machen Murphy.



December 05, 2019 at 06:09 PM

JC

“ Dear Mr. Murphy, Velma and family, We are holding you all so close in our hearts and love we spent time with your beautiful wife and Mom. I remember meeting her like it was yesterday and she was kind and loving from the first moment! I love and miss you all everyday! The Coyne Family ~ Ryan, Jennifer & Austin

jennifer coyne - December 05, 2019 at 04:40 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Shirley Machen Murphy.



December 05, 2019 at 04:02 PM

RT

“ Mr. Murphy, I am surprised to hear that your sweet wife has gone "home". The love that the two of you shared was very evident setting the example for the rest of us to follow. Please know that your are in our thoughts and prayers.

Larry and Rita Taylor

RITA TAYLOR - December 05, 2019 at 01:58 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Shirley Machen Murphy.



December 05, 2019 at 01:57 PM

RH

“ *Renea Hall lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



Renea Hall - December 05, 2019 at 10:14 AM

SW

“ *Steve And Susan Wagner lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



Steve And Susan Wagner - December 05, 2019 at 09:54 AM

DH

“ *Carroll, we are thinking of you and praying for your family during this time of great loss. Shirley was such a dear soul and will be missed by so many. May God's love and care be with you.*
Lee and Donna Harlan

Donna Harlan - December 05, 2019 at 09:22 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Shirley Machen Murphy.*



December 05, 2019 at 07:45 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Shirley Machen Murphy.*



December 05, 2019 at 07:34 AM



“ *Debra F.Williams lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



Debra F.Williams - December 04, 2019 at 11:48 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Shirley Machen Murphy.*



December 04, 2019 at 10:33 PM



“ *Pauline Douglas lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



Pauline Douglas - December 04, 2019 at 10:18 PM

MW

“ *Mary Williams lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



Mary williams - December 04, 2019 at 08:47 PM

MN

“ *Mrs. Thelma Norris lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



Mrs. Thelma Norris - December 04, 2019 at 08:45 PM

SS

“ *San Sylvers lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



San Sylvers - December 04, 2019 at 08:18 PM

MW

“ *Mary K. Williams lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



Mary K. Williams - December 04, 2019 at 08:16 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Shirley Machen Murphy.*



December 04, 2019 at 04:21 PM



“ *Elaine Brady lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



Elaine Brady - December 04, 2019 at 03:38 PM



“ *Carroll, you and Shirley were an inspiration to many members of Central Baptist Church, Johnson City. I always told you what a beautiful wife you had and such a lovely couple you were. God has wrapped you in his arms, holding you tight, giving you peace only he can give. Your prayers touched many and God heard each and every one so rest in your faith now and be comforted by your family and friends.*

To my brother in Christ's love, Cindi Wilson

Cindi Wilson - December 04, 2019 at 03:11 PM



“ *The time we spent together in water aerobics for many years was special, because Shirley is a special Lady.*
Pati Shannon

Pati Shannon - December 04, 2019 at 10:29 AM

WG

“ *With extreme Love, Yvette, Sean, Paul, Ty & girls. purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Shirley Machen Murphy.*



With extreme Love, Yvette, Sean, Paul, Ty & girls. - December 04, 2019 at 10:04 AM



“ *Pamela Renea lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



Pamela Renea - December 04, 2019 at 06:17 AM

DT

“ *This old lump of ground that we live on has grown dimmer with Shirley's passing but Heaven has become even brighter as the angel God leant us came home. A beautiful and wonderful woman and true child of God. Peace and comfort to Carol and the family. May the love shown by God and your many friends comfort and sustain you in this misery. Know that those left behind are much loved and prayed for. PEACE!*
Doug and Vicki Taylor

Doug Taylor - December 04, 2019 at 05:47 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Shirley Machen Murphy.*



December 04, 2019 at 12:27 AM



“ *Grande Gourmet Fruit Basket was purchased for the family of Shirley Machen Murphy.*



December 03, 2019 at 11:12 PM



“ *Jim and Myra Wilson purchased the Fruit Abounds for the family of Shirley Machen Murphy.*



Jim and Myra Wilson - December 03, 2019 at 05:43 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Shirley Machen Murphy.*



December 03, 2019 at 05:24 PM

YF

“ Shirley was a beautiful person and my boys loved her dearly. She was their Titi. We love you Titi and will miss you dearly. Love, Yvette and familia.

Yvette Font - December 03, 2019 at 05:07 PM

GB

“ G.L. & Trish Bristol sent a virtual gift in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy



G.L. & Trish Bristol - December 03, 2019 at 04:52 PM

JC

“ James & Brenda CHARLES sent a virtual gift in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy



James & Brenda CHARLES - December 03, 2019 at 12:42 PM

YY

“ Your weekly workout crew. Love ya! purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Shirley Machen Murphy.



Your weekly workout crew. Love ya! - December 03, 2019 at 12:19 AM

CR

“ Clara Faye Hart Rutledge sent a virtual gift in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy



Clara Faye Hart Rutledge - December 02, 2019 at 10:14 PM



“ I always loved going over to Aunt Shirley's and Uncle Carroll's house with Mama and Daddy. We always had fun and she usually had something good to eat. I admired her as a wife, mother, sister, and friend. She always had kind words for everyone. I love her and will miss her. May GOD bless and comfort all of you as you say goodbye to her.

Love you all.

Gwen and Ron Smith

Gwendolyn Smith - December 02, 2019 at 10:12 PM

MA

“ Margaret sent a virtual gift in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy



Margaret - December 02, 2019 at 09:14 PM



“ Paulette Robinson sent a virtual gift in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy



Paulette Robinson - December 02, 2019 at 06:58 PM



“ CHANDRA lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy



CHANDRA - December 02, 2019 at 05:38 PM



“ Debra McCrary sent a virtual gift in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy



Debra McCrary - December 02, 2019 at 05:14 PM



“ Mary Latham sent a virtual gift in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy



Mary Latham - December 02, 2019 at 02:50 PM

WB

“ Shirley was always a sweet, smiling and caring person in our presence. She will be missed by many folk, especially ladies of the Monday Club. She is at peace and no longer in pain. Rest in peace, friend of ours.

Walter and Yvonne Buford

Walter & Yvonne Buford - December 02, 2019 at 02:26 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Shirley Machen Murphy.



December 02, 2019 at 01:49 PM

EJ

“ You will truly be missed, R.I.H. ❤️❤️🙏🙏



Eugene Russaw jr - December 02, 2019 at 01:46 PM

SW

“ Stacie Workman lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy



Stacie Workman - December 02, 2019 at 01:38 PM

NS

“ I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER SHIRLEY. SHE WAS A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, VERY NICE AND HAD A KIND HEART. MAY GOD BLESS AND COMFORT HER FAMILY. NANCY S.POSEY

Nancy S.Posey - December 02, 2019 at 01:29 PM

NS

“ Nancy S.Posey sent a virtual gift in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy



Nancy S.Posey - December 02, 2019 at 01:27 PM

NS

“ Nancy S.Posey lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy



Nancy S.Posey - December 02, 2019 at 01:11 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Shirley Machen Murphy.



December 02, 2019 at 01:00 PM

LB

“ *Lee & Lydia Bridwell sent a virtual gift in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



Lee & Lydia Bridwell - December 02, 2019 at 11:52 AM

WJ

“ *Wilma Jenkins lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



Wilma Jenkins - December 02, 2019 at 11:49 AM

PS

“ *I can remember the day she and I went to Red Robin for lunch. She was truly a nice person. She will be missed. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to all of her family.*

Pennie Sofranko - December 02, 2019 at 11:43 AM

MP

“ *So sorry to hear of cousin Shirley's passing. She always had a big smile on her face when I would see her. She was one of my biggest Fans! She was always loving, caring and kind! She may be gone from this earth but she will always live inside of our hearts! Miss you Shirley! Rest In Peace! Heaven has gained an Angel! Sending prayers and hugs!*

M Ann Pritchard - December 02, 2019 at 11:31 AM

JE

“ A number of years ago Shirley presented me with her jade plant. Actually it was more like a tree. She said it would get more sunlight at my house. Every time I look at it I'm reminded of Shirley's sweet nature and beautiful smile. The angels are singing. Jeannie Evans

Jeannie Evans - December 02, 2019 at 11:13 AM

JM

“ Judy N David Moore lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy



judy n David Moore - December 02, 2019 at 10:38 AM

TM

“ Teresa McAdams lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy



Teresa McAdams - December 02, 2019 at 10:05 AM

MD

“ Melvin Drumgoole sent a virtual gift in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy



Melvin Drumgoole - December 02, 2019 at 10:00 AM

Charlie
Fields
Smith

“ *Sending up prayers for peace and comfort for you all during this difficult time. God bless you all. ~Charlie*



Charlie Fields Smith - December 02, 2019 at 08:55 AM

CF

“ *Carla Forney lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



Carla Forney - December 02, 2019 at 07:28 AM

CG

“ *Claudia Goines lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



Claudia Goines - December 02, 2019 at 06:56 AM

JW

“ *Shirley was a delightful lady. She will be truly missed by our family.*



Jim and Myra Wilson - December 01, 2019 at 11:17 PM

ES

“ Elizabeth And William Scott lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy



Elizabeth and William Scott - December 01, 2019 at 10:52 PM

ES

“ Elizabeth Scott sent a virtual gift in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy



Elizabeth Scott - December 01, 2019 at 10:49 PM

SW

“ Prince and I are sharing your sadness, family, as you remember dear Shirley and celebrate the inspiring life that she led. What a sweet, wonderful woman she was. ~ Sandra and Prince Woolwine

Sandra Woolwine - December 01, 2019 at 10:19 PM

GF

“ Gary And Moricina Fain sent a virtual gift in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy



Gary and Moricina Fain - December 01, 2019 at 10:00 PM

RO

“ Raymond & Carol Oxendine sent a virtual gift in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy



Raymond & Carol Oxendine - December 01, 2019 at 09:35 PM

JW

“ Janice Wells sent a virtual gift in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy



Janice wells - December 01, 2019 at 08:42 PM

BS

“ Mother Shirley loved red roses.



Brian C Smith - December 01, 2019 at 07:55 PM

 Matt Davidson

“ Matt Davidson lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy



Matt Davidson - December 01, 2019 at 07:41 PM

KA

“ *Kathy lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



Kathy - December 01, 2019 at 07:11 PM

CC

“ *Chuck Carroll lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



Chuck Carroll - December 01, 2019 at 07:05 PM

LB

“ *Lynn & Rayetta Bachman lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



Lynn & Rayetta Bachman - December 01, 2019 at 06:00 PM

JB

“ *Jim And Frances Bass lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



Jim and Frances Bass - December 01, 2019 at 05:52 PM

CB

“ *Charles Buford*

Charles Buford - December 01, 2019 at 04:59 PM

CB

“ *Charles Buford lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



Charles Buford - December 01, 2019 at 04:57 PM

VP

“ *Family you are in my prayers. Mrs Shirley was a beautiful person. She will be missed. Love you all*



Viola Patton - December 01, 2019 at 03:52 PM



“ *Sorry for your loss. A beautiful women, wife, mother and grandmother inside and out.*



Carolyn Fain - December 01, 2019 at 03:18 PM

DC

“ *Dora Carson lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



dora carson - December 01, 2019 at 02:41 PM

NG

“ *Nancy Greenlee lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



Nancy Greenlee - December 01, 2019 at 02:38 PM

CT

“ *Connie Thompson sent a virtual gift in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



Connie Thompson - December 01, 2019 at 02:15 PM

HK

“ *Howie & Billie Kemper sent a virtual gift in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



Howie & Billie Kemper - December 01, 2019 at 01:39 PM

HK

“ *Howie & Billie Kemper lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



Howie & Billie Kemper - December 01, 2019 at 01:39 PM

JP

“ *Janice Phillips lit a candle in memory of Shirley Machen Murphy*



Janice Phillips - December 01, 2019 at 12:22 PM

AG

I did not have the pleasure of meeting Ms. Shirley but feel that I knew her through my conversations with her daughter my colleague Velma, what resonated with me was the love Mrs Murphy had for her family and the faith she had in her God. Her elegance and her sense of humor as well as her commitment to her community. My condolences to the Murphy family. May she rest in sweet peace.

Aileen Lewis Goodwin - December 03, 2019 at 10:07 PM

JT

Mrs. Murphy was certainly an example of a real lady, indeed. She and Carroll raised their children in the perfect way and I know they will understand that she is in God's hands now and not suffering in any way. The loss of Mrs. Murphy will be felt by all that knew her and the Murphy family. Let's keep her family in our thoughts and never forget this beautiful person.

Tommy Thomas

John B Thomas - December 04, 2019 at 04:50 PM