



Gilda May Morris

July 28, 1929 - January 24, 2023

Gilda May Morris, age 93, passed peacefully in her sleep on January 24, 2023. The first daughter of Evelyn N. and Ruth (Burdeshaw) May of Vernon, Florida, Gilda was born July 28, 1929, in Moody's Hospital, Dothan, Alabama. She grew up in Vernon, where, at age 5, she entered elementary school, and, at age 16, graduated from Vernon High School in 1946. She was well-loved by her classmates and teachers and, from the earliest years, was highly acclaimed for her singing voice and acting ability, frequently performing in school plays and at local events.

Immediately after graduation, Gilda took her first job as a telephone operator with Southern Bell in Chipley, Florida. Over the years, she was married twice, but continued to work for Southern Bell until 1968. She moved to Tallahassee in 1977, where she worked at the Tallahassee Democrat until 1995. Not one to embrace retirement, Gilda then went to work for the Florida History Shop in the R. A. Gray Building and later State Capitol until 2020. In March of that year, the Covid epidemic led to the closing of the Capitol, so at age 91, she finally - though begrudgingly - retired.

Gilda thoroughly enjoyed life. She loved her family and friends, her dog Bruno and three cats, Karen, Collars and Altaira, movies from the Golden Age of Hollywood and popular music - especially tunes from the Big Band era through the 1960s. She was a huge football fan, enthusiastically following the

Florida State Seminoles and Florida A&M Rattlers, and for many years could name each and every player on the field.

For the past two months, Gilda had been cared for at Centre Pointe in Tallahassee. She is preceded in death by her father, Evelyn May, her mother, Ruth and stepfather Jesse Cook, all who lived in or near Vernon. She is survived by her son, Bradley Morris of Tarzana, California, her sister, Mary Cathrin May, nephews Stewart Calhoun and John Calhoun, his wife Meredith and their children Alexis and Liam, all of Tallahassee. Other close surviving relatives include Tyrone and Sharon May, of Lynn Haven, Florida, their daughter Kimberly and her husband Mike Ohara and their son, Teiji, of Greenville, Colorado, along with numerous other cousins whom Gilda dearly loved.

Gilda was a long-time volunteer and supporter of Big Bend Hospice. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made there in her memory, at the following address or website:

Big Bend Hospice Foundation: 1723 Mahan Center Blvd. Tallahassee, FL 32308 or <https://bigbendhospice.charityproud.org/Donate>

The family will be receiving guests for a visitation at Bevis Funeral Home on Saturday, February 4, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. with a celebration of her life to follow at 12:00 p.m.

Breanna Green of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193, www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the Morris family with their arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 4. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory
200 John Knox Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 385-2193

Celebration of Life

FEB 4. 12:00 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory
200 John Knox Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 385-2193

Tribute Wall



“ *Bevis Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Gilda May Morris*



Bevis Funeral Home - February 04, 2023 at 02:34 PM



“ *Bevis Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Gilda May Morris*



Bevis Funeral Home - January 31, 2023 at 07:50 PM



“ *Loved by Sharon and Ty, Gilda was Matron of Honour at our marriage ceremony. We will never forget her generosity in making our weekend honeymoon special. She will remain treasured in our hearts.*

Sharon May - February 04, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *If everyone in this World would be at least half the person that Gilda was then what a loving and beautiful World this would be.*

Robert Williams - February 02, 2023 at 10:18 PM

CK

“ *So sorry to get this news. My condolences to Mary May and all her family.. I wish Gilda could have seen,before she passed, the three Christmas cacti that she gave to me for safe keeping. I took them in for the 5 days of freezing weather, that we recently experienced, and they are thriving and had majestic flowers. May Gilda rest in peace.*

Claude Kenneson - February 02, 2023 at 07:59 AM

BM

“ *Gilda was a dearly loved daughter of my father's brother Evelyn. Shared was the closeness of grandparents and their siblings on both sides of our families in Vernon. I was proud to hear her beautiful voice when she sang at the Vernon High School. When she was getting into the car leaving for her honey moon I was sad that some of the rice I had thrown got in her eyes. Later in life while in Atlanta I was startled to see that the 7 quarters I had deposited in the pay phone for a call to my mother in Vernon was returned. It was Gilda the operator from heaven that placed the call. It was great sharing these and other moments with you through the years.. Always, Gwynne , Lynne, and Christopher May.*

Baylye, Gwynne May - February 01, 2023 at 10:40 PM

AB

“ I am saddened to hear of the passing of your sister Mary. I have missed seeing you all together at New Times since it was torn down a couple of years ago There obvious was such a bond between you all. My prayers with the family and may the good times that you two spent together help to comfort and sustain you as you move on without your loved one. Althemese Barnes

althemese barnes - February 01, 2023 at 07:18 PM