



## Anna Rhea Henderson Bateman

February 22, 1936 - November 19, 2024

Anna Rhea Henderson Bateman, 88, died Tuesday, Nov. 19, at TerraBella Assisted Living surrounded by her family. She was known as Rhea, Mama, Mamaw, and Mrs. Bateman.

She was married to the love of her life, Brady Bateman, who died in 2022. She was preceded in death by their son, Anthony Steven, who died at birth; parents, Jasper and Lillie Mills Henderson; sister, Allie Ruth Case; niece, Janie Case Berry; and nephew, Eddie Case.

Her family includes daughter, Teresa, and husband, John Ayers; granddaughter, Elizabeth Rhea Ayers Neill, and husband, Robb Neill; great-grandson, Jackson Brady Neill and Hadden Lee; niece, Jeannine Pruitt; and nephews, Jimmy Case and Danny Bateman.

She was a traditional matriarch, but at the same time a non-traditional woman. She was always the person in charge. She loved to cook, sew, quilt, craft, grow beautiful flowers, read, study, journal, and never threw anything away because it might be needed someday.

She was an elementary school teacher for 30 years, having taught at Swannsylvania, Edgemont, and Dandridge Elementary, but spent most of her years at Chestnut Hill Elementary. She earned her teaching degrees at Tusculum and Carson-Newman.

A United Methodist, she grew up in Hills Union UMC, and taught Sunday School, Bible School, played piano, served in various roles there, and at Bridges Chapel. After retirement, she held her own services at home.

Although she never officially joined, she considered Morristown First UMC her church for the past two years. She believed a woman could teach, minister, and spread the Good News, and she did. Her favorite scripture was Romans 8:28: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Married to a truck driver who was gone most of the time, she was in charge of the home fires. Brady, who was a Teamster and retired from Roadway, also drove for Tennessee Handbags, Heywood-Wakefield, and other companies during his career of more than 45 years.

They built a wonderful life together in Grapevine Hollow, which they referred to as a suburb of Chestnut Hill in Jefferson County.

The family appreciates the staff and residents of TerraBella, who took wonderful care of her, the staff of Caris Hospice, who kept her comfortable during her last weeks, and the staff of Heritage Center, where she did several stints of rehab. Also, we thank all the friends, family, and neighbors who have loved and helped us through.

She will be cremated and a family service will be held at a later date. For those who wish, memorial contributions can be made to Food on Foot, 1 Berkline Dr., Morristown, TN 37813, or the FUMC H Street project, 101 E. 1st North, Morristown, TN 37813.

Family and friends may sign the guest register online at: [www.manesfuenralhome.com](http://www.manesfuenralhome.com).

Arrangements with Manes Funeral Home.

# Tribute Wall

PC

“ *She taught basketball when I went to Swannsylvania school and was such a beautiful woman . Leonard worked with Brady and they had a lot of great times. Have you in our thoughts and prayers*

Phyllis and Leonard Combs - November 26, 2024 at 06:00 PM

CP

“ *I was so sad to learn of your Mother's passing. I knew her through my Mother. Elizabeth Felknor. who loved her dearly. I always thought of her as my sister-in-law.(inside joke). My prayers and love go out to you. You were the second generation to have a Felknor (Pasetti) as a teacher! May God shower you with comfort and strength inn the days ahead.*

Carolyn Pasetti - November 22, 2024 at 09:57 AM

JD

“ *So Sorry for Your Loss* ❤️ 🙏🙏🙏  
*Jim. & Cherry Derrick*

Jim Derrick - November 22, 2024 at 07:56 AM

FM

“ *Deepest condolences and prayers for your family. May God provide comfort and strength to each of you in the days ahead.*



Freida Miller - November 22, 2024 at 12:06 AM

SO

“ I am so sad to read that Rhea has passed away. I did her and Brady’s hair for years.... We had a lot of fun in the Beauty Shop. Rhea was such a good woman, and she loved teaching all the children in school. She was a very selfless lady with a heart of gold. I thought the world of her. I am praying for all the family. I’m so sorry. Rest in peace my precious friend. You will sure be missed. 💔



Susie O’Dell - November 21, 2024 at 11:43 PM

AH

“ To a wonderful teacher



Alyson Hill - November 21, 2024 at 07:17 PM

RC

“ She was my first grade teacher at Chestnut Hill Elementary School. She was the biggest part of my good grades in school. She made learning fun. I can still see her coming around to check our work with her red pencil and putting a big smiley face on our papers when we got things right. She never knew how those smiley faces warmed my heart. Much love and condolences to her family and friends.

Reba Clevenger Collins - November 21, 2024 at 01:36 PM



RK

“ We're so sad to hear of Rhea's passing. It was my pleasure to be able to bring our granddaughter Charlie to meet Mrs. Bateman She seemed just as excited to meet Charlie. I will make sure to have buttermilk and flour in the house to make pancakes for our grands. It was a request of her that I will be sure I do. I wish I could have spent more time with her. She and Brady will always have a special spot on their homestead. Sending love and hugs to Teresa, Liz and all the family. Regina and Bob Key

---

**R Key** - November 20, 2024 at 07:48 PM