



## Mary Jo "Josie" Bullard

July 30, 1938 - July 14, 2025

Mary Jo "Josie" Gennoe Bullard passed away on July 14, 2025 at the age of 86. She was born on July 30, 1938 in Decatur, TN. She graduated from Meigs County High School and from the University of Tennessee Knoxville where she was a member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority. Josie was known for her graciousness towards everyone she met. She cared deeply for her family and friends and brought warmth and light into their lives. Her memory will be cherished by all who knew her. Josie was preceded in death by her parents, Joe Wheeler Gennoe and Mary Sue Buchanan Gennoe; her husband, Ronald "Ronnie" Thomas Bullard; her son, David Michael Bullard; her brother, David Buchanan Gennoe; her aunt, Sarah Katherine Buchanan Johnsonius and her sisters-in-law, Barbara Joan Dunham and Dottie Jean Bullard Wilson. She is survived by her son, Ronald "Tommy" Thomas (Pam Rogers) Bullard, Jr of Knoxville, TN; her grandchildren, Amy Beth (Paul) Gardner of Cleveland, TN and Bradley "Brad" Thomas Bullard of San Diego, CA; step grandchild, Rachel Rogers of Knoxville, TN; great-granddaughters, Breonna Stacy Gardner and Bridgett Diana Gardner both of Cleveland, TN; great-great grandson, Theodore Munger of Cleveland, TN; her sisters-in-law, Bettye Anne (Kent) Bullard Bewley of Greeneville, TN and Gerry Gennoe of Knoxville, TN; cousin, Sarah Carter Volkmann of Hope Mills, NC; nieces, Kandice (David) Bewley Baker of Knoxville, TN, Rollin (Cam) Wilson Conklin of Lookout Mountain, TN, Anne Wilson of Mt. Pleasant, SC, Susan Gennoe of Knoxville, TN and Janet (Kurt) Gennoe Klitzner of San Marcos, CA; special great-niece,

Brooke "Ava" Avalon Baker of Knoxville, TN and several great-nieces and great-nephews. The family will receive friends on Monday, July 21, 2025 from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm at Manes Funeral Home in Newport, TN, followed by a brief Celebration of Life at 7:00 pm. Interment will take place Tuesday, July 22, 2025 at 11:00 am at Decatur Cemetery on School Drive in Decatur, TN. Pastor Marta Cogburn of First United Methodist Church Newport, TN officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made to the church or charity of your choice.

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

Arrangements with Manes Funeral Home, Newport, TN.

# Cemetery Details

## Decatur Cemetery

School Drive  
Decatur, TN 37322

# Previous Events

## Receiving Friends

JUL 21. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Manes Funeral Home Inc.  
363 East Main Street  
Newport, TN 37821  
(423) 623-6952  
manesfuneralhome@bellsouth.net  
<https://www.manesfuneralhome.com/index.cfm>

## Funeral service

JUL 21. 7:00 PM (ET)

Manes Funeral Home Chapel  
363 East Main Street  
Newport, TN 37821

## Burial

JUL **22**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Decatur Cemetery  
School Drive  
Decatur, TN 37322

# Tribute Wall



“ *Manes Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Jo "Josie" Bullard*



**Manes Funeral Home, Inc.** - July 18, 2025 at 09:48 AM

CW

*So sorry for the loss of Josie. I attended Meigs High School with her and she was so Beautiful and Nice to everyone.... . She grew up right here in the City of Decatur. Her Dad owned the gas station on the square here in Decatur.. I had not saw her in many years but I remember her being so nice to all of us at Meigs High . My deepest sympathy to all her family. ..Charlene Morrison Wilson*

**CHARLENE WILSON** - July 21, 2025 at 12:27 AM

SS

“ *So sorry to hear of Josie's passing. She was such a lovely lady. Always smiling . May you each feel God's loving arms around you and give you strength for the days ahead.*

**Sharon Styles** - July 24, 2025 at 05:11 PM

KS

“ *So many fond memories of a beautiful lady and dear friend. She defined "gentle and kind".....until the tennis court!! Kathy Ethier Sanders*

**Kathy Sanders** - July 24, 2025 at 07:06 AM

CW

“ I am so sorry for the loss of Josie. I attended Meigs High School with her and she was so beautiful and nice to everyone. She grew up right here in city of Decatur and her Dad owned the gas station on the square in Decatur. I had not saw her in many years but I remember her being so nice to all of us at Meigs High School. My deepest sympathy to all her family. Charlene Morrison Wilson.

CHARLENE WILSON - July 20, 2025 at 08:33 PM

LH

“ Prayers!



Louise & Jimmy Hux - July 19, 2025 at 10:32 PM

MC

“ Our condolences to the Bullard Family and friends. We are very sorry for your loss of Josie! A beautiful, precious lady. May God bring peace and comfort to all.

Jay Harold and Mary Ann Chrisman

Mary Ann Chrisman - July 19, 2025 at 08:17 PM

DM

“ May you rest in peace!

Debbie Murr McGaha - July 19, 2025 at 04:21 PM

SH

“*Josie was a beautiful lady inside and out! She had a warm smile for all! I was blessed to overlap with her with William Cocke Chapter, NSDAR. She will be missed!*

Sheila - July 19, 2025 at 02:01 PM

KS

“*Such a kind, special lady! Made you smile just to run into her in town and have a chat!! Sending prayers for Tommy and all the family!*  
*Tommy and Karen Smith*

Karen Smith - July 19, 2025 at 01:31 PM

JC

“*With deepest sympathy to the family. Josie was always gracious in any situation. She will be missed by all who knew her.*

Jan Carpenter - July 18, 2025 at 04:10 PM

PP

“*Josie was a class act.....a lovely southern lady!*

Pauline Proffitt - July 18, 2025 at 03:51 PM

AB

“*Tommy and family, so very sorry to hear of Josie's passing. Such a lovely person, soft spoken and gracious... Always loved chatting with her, I always thought she dressed simple yet so classic... Prayers for all...*

Abby Balch - July 17, 2025 at 05:52 PM

MV

“*Josie and I played tennis together for years. Sometimes we would go out for breakfast or to get a banana split. Through Tommy, we have kept in touch over the past several years. I have lost a dear friend.*

*Sending love to Tom and Pam.*

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**Margo Valentine** - July 17, 2025 at 04:36 PM

CV

“*I LOVED TAKING MY ZINNIAS TO JOSIE FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS. SHE SEEMED TO ENJOY THEM SO MUCH AND I ENJOYED SEEING HER EACH WEEK. I WILL MISS OUR WEEKLY CHATS.*

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**CHRIS VALENTINE** - July 17, 2025 at 12:03 PM

SO

“*I am so sorry to read that sweet Josie has passed away. She was such a pretty lady. She was so kind to people, and was so soft spoken. I remember when she was a substitute teacher at Newport Grammar School. Josie was loved by all the kids. She will sure be missed. Many prayers for this precious family. Rest in peace Josie.*



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**Susie O'Dell** - July 17, 2025 at 10:45 AM

DS

“*Our Deepest Sympathy*  
*Doug and Joyce Shoemaker*

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**D&J Shoemaker** - July 17, 2025 at 09:00 AM

SW

“ *Josie was one of the loveliest ladies you would ever want to know. She was so beautiful, inside and out, so gracious, and such a pleasure to be around. Sweet Josie was a jewel and she will leave a huge void in our church and the community.*

*Sandy Webb*

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**Sandra Webb** - July 16, 2025 at 05:57 PM

GW

“ *Glenda Willis lit a candle in memory of Mary Bullard*



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**Glenda Willis** - July 16, 2025 at 10:27 AM

LD

“ Loving sympathy to Tommy and families and all loved ones.



*I shall never forget Josie. Not only was she the loveliest lady in Newport, both inside and out, she was the kindest, sweetest, most thoughtful lady I've known. She was a lot like her Aunt Sarah Johnsonious. Both were very dear ladies. Josie's hardest valley to walk in this life was losing her son, David. We, as a whole church, grieved with Josie and Ronnie, asking God to bring comfort and peace during this very sad time. Josie will be missed here so much. Thank you for being a friend!*

*Matthew 5:4*

*Sincerely,  
Linda Dawson*

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**Linda Dawson** - July 16, 2025 at 01:34 AM

KH

“ *Josie was one of the sweetest, caring ladies that I had the pleasure of knowing, her beauty went far more than just on the outside, her integrity was that worthy of a wonderful inspiring role-model.*

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**Keela Henson** - July 15, 2025 at 11:41 AM

IT

“ *My condolences to the Bullard family*



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**Imogene Turner** - July 15, 2025 at 10:51 AM

CV

“ Tommy, I am so sorry for your loss of your Mother. I lost my Dad in January and it is never easy to say Goodbye. You and your family are in my prayers 🙏 Cindy Valentine

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**Cynthia Diane Valentine** - July 14, 2025 at 09:56 PM

BP

“ Tommy and family,  
I will always consider taking care of Josie a great honor. She was one of the kindest, sweetest woman I've ever met. She was a special lady for sure.ill always love you Josie.  
Your friend Barbara proffitt

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**Barbara Proffitt** - July 14, 2025 at 08:52 PM

DO

“ Josie Bullard was one of the most beautiful ladies we have ever known , both inside and outside. My first memory of her dates to her time subbing at NGS. She, along with Susan Roberts, was newly married and so very pretty and we all wished for them to be our substitutes. Sadly I never was blessed. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

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**Duay and Kay O'Neil** - July 14, 2025 at 05:17 PM