Mary Ann Pruitt

December 4, 1936 - January 9, 2026

Mary Ann (Calfee) Pruitt, 89, of Knoxville peacefully met her Heavenly Father on January 9, 2026. She was born in Newport TN on December 4, 1936, to the late Vard and Mary Ellen Calfee. Mary Ann enjoyed a 50 year marriage to Robert D. “Denny” Pruitt, also a native of Newport, who passed in 2008. Mary Ann retired from TVA after nearly 30 years of service in the General Counsel’s Office. She never retired from service to others, dedicating countless hours to teaching Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, and assisting with Girls in Action (GA’s) ministries. Mary Ann is also predeceased by her brother and sister-in-law, Kenneth and Sandra Calfee of Newport. She is survived by oldest son Colonel Mark D. Pruitt (USAF retired) of Tampa FL; youngest son and daughter-in-law Lance and Mary Pruitt of Knoxville TN; grandchildren Weston Pruitt, Sarah Beth DeGenova, Riley Pruitt, Hunter Pruitt and Carson Pruitt; great-grandson Ben Pruitt. The family acknowledges the staff at Northshore Heights for their compassionate care of Mary Ann. The family will have a private graveside service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hope Resource Center of Knoxville TN, or Central Bearden Church Knoxville – Children’s Ministry.
Family and friends may sign guest register online at: www.manesfuneralhome.com
Arrangements with Manes Funeral Home, Newport, TN.

Tribute Wall

RM

Ann was a relentless tireless 'volunteer' and children's teacher and caregiver at Central and also at HOPE Resource Center when I was a volunteer there serving primarily UT Students.
She was always asking How Can I Help more!
With you all in spirit and prayers and you remember Mary Ann and gather as family

Rev. Mark Moreland - January 12 at 08:34 AM

DO

It was my honor to serve as the Ring Bearer when Mary Ann and Denny got married. That honor came about because my mother was a dear friend of Denny's mother, Martha Clift. I proudly told people I was to be the 'rain barrel' at the wedding. It was a lovely day, marred only when one of the groomsmen placed a potato in the exhaust pipe of Denny's car. When he started the engine, the potato was blown out and landed on the toe of Mary Ellen's dyed-to-match shoe. She was not amused.
My sincere sympathy to all.

Duay O'Neil - January 11 at 12:57 PM

JC

With deepest sympathy.

Jan Carpenter - January 12 at 03:50 PM

LP

Duay, thank you for the humorous story at my parents' wedding. Thank you also for your role that day.

Yes, I am sure that my grandmother Mary Ellen Calfee, did not appreciate a potato exploding onto her dress shoes.

Send me your email, and I will send you a picture of the entire wedding party, which includes the ring bearers.

Lance Pruitt - January 15 at 10:05 AM