



Melba Wadell Bailey

February 14, 1928 - September 15, 2009

Melba Louise Waddell Bailey died September 15, 2009, at her home in Newport, Tn.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Roscoe and India Waddell of Bristol, Virginia and step mother Hattie Huff McMahan Waddell.

Survivors include her husband of 61 years, Reid Hamilton Bailey; daughter and son in law, Brenda (Bailey) and Dr. Robert Kisabeth, Charleston, S.C., son Marty Bailey, Newport; grandchildren-Meredith (Bailey) and Dr. Travis Fawver, Knoxville; Malerie Bailey, Orlando, Fl; Weston Bailey, Knoxville; Warrant Officer John and Katherine (Kisabeth) Bockmann, stationed in Fairbanks, Alaska; Kimberly Kisabeth, Durham,NC; special friend of the entire family, Diane Lyles; loyal caregiver, Shawnee Driskill, and many supportive friends and extended family.

Melba enjoyed a diverse work history that included: DJ-ing a ladies' morning radio show on WGRV in Greeneville, TN; being a Western Union operator in both Black Mountain and Montreat, NC; serving as secretary at Cocke County High School, as well as being a secretary for McSween & McSween and at Merchant's and Planter's Bank in Newport. She was employed as a substitute teacher in the Cocke County School District, and as a medical transcriptionist for Cocke County Memorial Hospital. For the last several years, Melba enjoyed her role of being a retired housewife, active mother, and doting grandmother.

Melba was a loyal member of the First United Methodist Church in Newport,

having served as past president of the Women of the Church. Her great love for her grandchildren was evident as she and Reid hosted many swim parties for boys and girls of the church through the years.

Mrs. Bailey was actively involved in many organizations during the course of her life and had served in many capacities, including being a past president of TN District I of the General Federation of Womens' Clubs, a past president Tennessee Woman's Club of Claiborne County, and past president of the Twentieth Century Club of Newport. In addition, Melba belonged to the William Cocke Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution and was a member of many historical societies, including the Smoky Mountain Historical Society and the Scottish Society of Knoxville. She was a part of First Families of Tennessee. Melba especially enjoyed her weekly gathering with "The Chicken N Biscuit Club".

An avid interest in genealogy led to many hours on the computer and much travel devoted to researching this passionate hobby. Another favorite pastime was camping with her husband, Reid, and several members of East Tennessee Airstream Group.

A memorial celebration will be held at the First United Methodist Church of Newport on Sunday, October 4, 2009 at 6 p.m., with a reception to follow at the church.

Those wishing to honor Melba's memory may do so by making a donation to the Parlor Renovation Fund at First United Methodist Church , 212 Washington Avenue, Newport, TN 37821.

Family and friends may sign the guest register on-line at: www.manesfuneralhome.com

Manes Funeral Home is in charge.

Tribute Wall



“ *Melba Wadell Bailey*

November 17, 2022 at 06:00 PM



“ *Sorry for your loss.*

arlie & Sheila Blankenship - October 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Melba Wadell Bailey*

Jackie & Colleen Styles - October 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Reid, Our hearts and our prayers are with you and your family. We love Melba and we miss her, too. God Bless you, Iliff, Marcie & Sandra*

Iliff McMahan, Marcie Wilds-McMahan & Sandra Wilds - October 05, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *We are so sorry for your loss. You will be in our thoughts and prayers, may God give you strength during this difficult time.*

Charles & Maxine Foster - October 05, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Kurt and I were extremely sorry to hear about the passing of Mrs. Bailey. If there is anything that either of us can do, please let us know. You will be in our thoughts and prayers.*

Kurt and Sacha Steele - October 05, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ *Brenda & Marty, My thoughts & prayers are with you during this most difficult time. Ginni Walker Foust*

Ginni Walker Foust - October 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ *Our love and prayers go out to the family. May God bless you and keep you.*

Craig Kisabeth - October 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ *Our prays are with the family in your lose.*

Sue and Dick Callis - October 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ *Martin, I was so sorry to hear about the passing of your Mother. Our Moms are special and it's always difficult. I hope you find comfort in the memories of your Mom. Jan Etter*

Jan Etter - October 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ *Melba Wadell Bailey*

Theresa Ball - September 30, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ *Brenda, Bob, Kim, Katherine & John, Please know that our prayers and thoughts are with you as you say good bye to your mom and grandma and celebrate her wonderful life. I did not know Melba, but I wish I had, she sounds like quite a lady indeed. sinc*

Linda and Craig Allen - September 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ I'm sorry to hear of Mrs. Bailey's passing. I hope you are comforted knowing that her struggle is now over and she is safe in God's loving arms. Mrs. Bailey was a special lady and I will miss seeing her when I come to Newport. Your family is in my thou

Julia Lawson - September 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ Dear Martin, Our sympathy and prayers are with you during your time of loss. Sincerely, Ed and Linda Calfee (KCS member)

Ed and Linda Calfee - September 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RD

“ Melba Wadell Bailey

Richard Davis - September 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ THINKING OF YOU MR.B. WITH THE LOSS OF YOUR SWEET HONEY. SHE WILL BE OUR SPECIAL ANGEL LOOKING OUT FOR THE REST OF US. LOVE AND PRAYERS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. RUTH

RUTH WILSON - September 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ Reed Sandy and I send you our sincere condolences. Melba was special to all of us in WBCCI.

Bob and Sandy Rascoll - September 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ So sorry for your loss.

Linnie Denton - September 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ So sorry for your loss.

Linnie Denton - September 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ *Melba Wadell Bailey*

Steven Lewis - September 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ *You have my deepest sympathy.*

Robbie Jackson melton - September 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ *Please accept my condolences. I'm sure that everyone who knew Melba shares your grief at her passing. My thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time.*

Brenda Smith Templeton - September 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RJ

“ *Melba Wadell Bailey*

Ralph & Bobbie Jenkins - September 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with your family at this very sad time.*

Kim Smith and Stephane Banks - September 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

FE

“ *Melba aka Grandmom has been a wonderful influence in our lives. She will be missed by so many people. The good deeds she did throughout her life have surely earned her many stars in her crown.*

Fletcher, Penny, Sarah, Rachel, Elizabeth Ervin - September 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ *I have so many good memories of Melba - wish I could be there for the celebration of her life. Love to you all - Marty, Reid, and Brenda.*

Phyllis Blazer - September 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ *Melba Wadell Bailey*

CHARLOTTE WEBB - September 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ *Melba was a great friend and will be greatly missed. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. May God comfort you as only He can during this time of sorrow. Kathy, Shawn, and Elizabeth Hemsworth*

The Hemsworths - September 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. May you find solace in remembering all the wonderful times you have had. Love and blessings Barbara*

Barbara Holder Bailey - September 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ THE WORLD HAS LOST A WONDERFUL GIFT MELBA, AS I KNEW HER WAS AN EXAMPLE OF THE TYPE OF SOLDIER GOD NEEDS FOR HIS GREAT ARMY. MY LIFE WAS TRULY BLESSED THE DAY I MET THIS PRECIOUS JEWEL. I AM THANKFUL FOR THE TIME GOD GAVE US WITH HIS ANGEL MY HEART IS GRI

PAULINE COOPER - September 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ Dear Marty and family, We are so sorry to hear of your loss. Your Mom was such a gracious lady. Prayers & hugs to you and your family~

Lisa Morgan, Carl and Roberta Griffith - September 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ sherry is the daughter of larry an diane gregg. so sorry for your loss.

don an sherry price - September 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ To Reid, Brenda, Martin, and all the Kisabeth and Bailey grandchildren May the Peace Of Christ be with you and remain with you always.

Cynthia & Richard Hutchinson - September 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DV

“ Reid and family, We want you to know that our hearts and prayers are with you at this time. We have many lovely memories of times with you---particularly when Chan was a little boy and you introduced him to Douglas Lake. Dotty and Bill Vinson

Dotty/Bill Vinson - September 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

WM

“ *What a classy LADY, Melba, was so kind to this ex-Kiwanin, when he served as sect. in the Club and She was Sectary at the M & P Bank. You are in our Prayer's. God loves you and so do we. Wiley and Katie*

Wiley & Kate Morgan - September 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

NL

“ *Reid, Marty, Brenda and family we are so sorry for your loss. You all are in our thoughts and prayers. Melba was a wonderful person.*

Nanette Wilds & Jeanette Lankford - September 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ *She was a very sweet and loveable person, and I am very sorry she passed away. We will keep your family in our prayers.*

Jerry and Jean Forner & Shayna James - September 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BU

“ *Marty, We are thinking about you and your Dad. You are in out prayers. Becky and Bill Umbaugh*

Becky and Bill Umbaugh - September 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ *SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. YOUR FAMILY WILL BE IN OUR PRAYERS.*

AMY HALL & FAMILY - September 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ *Melba Wadell Bailey*

LISA GILES & FAMILY - September 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ *Melba Wadell Bailey*

Robert and Martha Pack - September 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ *Reid, So sorry for the loss of your precious Melba. May you find peace with all the wonderful memories. We love you and will keep you and your family in our thoughts and prayers.*

Brent & Cindy Latham - September 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ *Melba Wadell Bailey*

Linda D Clark - September 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PL

“ *Sorry for your loss.*

Peggy W. Lane - September 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ *Melba Wadell Bailey*

Jamie Cody, Lindsey and Cody Naillon - September 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you. Don Lyles*

Donald Lyles - September 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with your entire family. Melba was a wonderful person and was so well liked by many people.*

Dr. Jim Williams, Karen, & Lindsey - September 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM