



Miriam Itelle Shults Keener

April 8, 1932 - November 9, 2017

Miriam Itelle Shults Keener of Cosby died late Thursday morning, November 9, 2017, at the home of her daughter and son-in-law following a period of declining health. She was 85.

Born April 8, 1932 in the Bogard community of Cocke County, TN, she was the seventh of nine children of Horace Alonzo and Mary Zula (Norris) Shults. To her family and many friends, she was known as "Mick."

Of the nine siblings, one sister, Mary Hugh (Norris) Henry, of Chattanooga survives.

She grew to maturity and lived the majority of her life in the shadow of English Mountain, attending Sunset Gap and Bogard Schools and worshipping at area churches, most recently McGaha's Chapel Baptist. She always enjoyed returning to Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church for their homecoming celebration.

She was a descendant of some of East Tennessee's earliest settlers, including Dr. Martin Shultz, John Denton, Frederick Lichlyter, Hugh Norris, and John Lillard.

She married Jack Duane Keener on Dec. 13, 1950, and the couple became the parents of three children. For several years, they operated Keener's Grocery, where the couple developed deep friendships with their many customers.

When not working in the store, she devoted herself to the care of her family and home and as long as her health permitted took great delight in canning

and preserving fruits and vegetables, cultivating beautiful flowers, decorating her home for the holidays, and hosting visitors from far and wide.

For the past three years, while living with her daughter and son-in-law, she cared for the family's "porch flowers."

She loved music, especially the old-time gospel songs, and until recently, enjoyed attending singings and musical programs at Riverview Baptist Church and Newport Seventh-day Adventist Church.

She also enjoyed several trips to Charleston, South Carolina to visit her granddaughter and great-grandson.

She will be remembered as a loving daughter, devoted wife, nurturing mother, adoring grandmother and great-grandmother, favorite aunt and cousin, and blessed Christian.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by four brothers Duke, Dave, Don, and Jimmy Dale Shults and three sisters Inelle and Ina Rae Shults and Evelyn 'Bunt' Hartsell.

In addition to her sister, she is survived by two daughters, Karen Kay (Keener) O'Neil and husband Duay, with whom she resided, and Nancy (Keener) Hansel and husband Mike, all of Newport, and one son, Marty Keener, of Cosby; two grandchildren: Amber Mary-Margaret O'Neil of Charleston, SC and Jack Duane Keener II of Kentucky; three great-grandchildren: Mason and Jaxson Keener of Newport and Connor Dash O'Neil of Charleston, SC; numerous nieces and nephews, many cousins, and a host of friends.

The family wishes to say a special 'Thank you' to Amedysis Home Health and Hospice for the wonderful care, concern, and guidance they have provided the family and to the many family members and friends whose visits, calls, food, and messages brought comfort and strength when sorely needed.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, November 11, 2017, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Manes Funeral Home with the funeral service following.

Maurice Shults will conduct the service, assisted by Dr. James Bennington and Rev. Rick Spell. Judge Carter Moore will provide music.

Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial remembrances may be sent to Stokely Memorial Library, 383 East Broadway, Newport, TN 37821.

Online condolences may be sent to www.manesfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements by Manes Funeral Home

Tribute Wall



“ *Miriam Itelle Shults Keener*

November 17, 2022 at 06:00 PM



“ *Our sympathy is with Kay, Nancy and Marty and families...*

Jeff and Julie Kyker - November 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mother and I are so very sorry for your loss. Blanche Hartsell Freda Hartsell*

Freda hartsell - November 18, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I pray all the wonderful memories you have of Ms. Keener will help you through this time.*

Bryne, Jennifer, and Isaac Hill - November 13, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Miriam Itelle Shults Keener*

Chuck kelley - November 12, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Nancy, You & your family are in my thoughts & Prayers!*

Christy Oakley - November 12, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ *Our prayers are with you all We think about your family often*

Donny and Sharon Lindsey - November 12, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ *Miriam Itelle Shults Keener*

Charlie and Lana williamson - November 12, 2017 at 12:00 AM

KL

“ *So sorry to hear this my prayers go out to all her family*

Kandy Lunsford - November 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ *I can only imaginethe Beautiful gathering of old friends & family in Heaven on this day...they are together again.*

Sherry Gregory - November 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ *Miriam Itelle Shults Keener*

Peggy Williams - November 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM

IG

“ *So sorry to hear about your loss*

Isaac Galford - November 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ *Love and Prayers!*

Debbie Rollins Greene - November 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM

TP

“ To the Keener family, I am sorry for your loss your family will be in our thoughts and prayers. Tracy, Tammy, Kameran and Dakota Pack

Tracy Pack - November 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ So sorry. You are all in my prayers.

Angie Roberts-Mathis - November 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ So sorry for your loss she will truly be missed

Darryll and Marilyn Mantooth - November 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ With deepest sympathy to all the family.

Jan Carpenter - November 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ So sorry for your lose. One great lady. Prayers for comfort and peace.

Tommy Frazier - November 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ So sorry for loss. Praying for all of you.

Tammy Hudson - November 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ So sorry for the loss of your Mother love you Karen

Cookie Ramsey - November 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *My sympathy to all family. Prayers of peace and great memories for all.*

Jeanne Birdwell - November 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ *Kay & Duay, so sorry for your loss. I know you'll miss seeing her, but she'll be with you always. Penny, Charles & Lucas Webb*

Penny Webb - November 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ *Sorry for your loss she was a great lady love Lou*

Louneil Williams - November 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *I am so very sorry for your, our, loss. This was a dear lady and I am sorry that I did not know until now, 8 PM Saturday. We will greatly miss her smiling face and her great spirit. She is now in the arms of Our Lord, whom she loved, He loves her as He do*

Jerry & Tammy Campbell - November 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ *Miriam Itelle Shults Keener*

Colleen Styles - November 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM

VM

“ *May God's love surround and comfort you in the days ahead. We love you all and will keep you in our prayers.*

Vanessa and Ronnie Messer - November 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DE

“ IÆm so sorry for your loss. You have the luxury of knowing she is with Jesus! She told me she was ready and going soon. She was right. You can see her again if you truly believe. Prayers, love, and hugs for you all.

Deede - November 10, 2017 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ A beautiful person. I'm so sorry for y'all's loss. Sending prayers for comfort and peace in knowing she was such a great Christian lady.. One of my most requested holiday cakes is a recipe of hers I got from a Paper clipping from an aunt who had cut it and

Ava Williams - November 10, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ So sorry for your loss... I remember going to that grocery store so my times when I was little with my grandfather Tom Sutton and visiting/talking with her.. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers...?????????????

Stephanie Sutton - November 10, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ Our hearts are heavy ... but the memories will sustain us, especially whenever we see an abundant array of red flowers, beautifully overflowing a porch on a warm day we loved her, so.

Susan G Ashmore - November 10, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RE

“ Riverview Baptist Church's monthly gospel singings won't ever be the same without the smiling face of "Mick" She made us all want to "do better" each & every time we saw her ... Our prayers are with you all ...

Ronald L Ellison - November 10, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Charles, Sandy & Josh Brady - November 10, 2017 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ I am so sorry for your loss may God bless all of the family

Anna Jane Gates Holt - November 10, 2017 at 12:00 AM

TG

“ Our thoughts & prayers are you All We were So Blessed to have gotten to meet This Precious lady . Pastor , Tim & Teresa Grooms Riverview Baptist Church

Teresa Grooms - November 10, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Miriam Itelle Shults Keener

Danny and Gwen Dover - November 10, 2017 at 12:00 AM

PT

“ So sorry for you loss. In our prayers.

Pat & Patricia Mathis Taylor - November 10, 2017 at 12:00 AM

TJ

“ *Miriam Itelle Shults Keener*

Tommye Dene Jones - November 10, 2017 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ *We are so sorry for your loss. May God bless you and your family in this time of pain. Erica Bramhall Friends of the Cocke County Library*

Erica Bramhall - November 10, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ *So sorry for your loss I loved your mom she was a sweet lady.*

Charlene shelton - November 10, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ *So sorry for your loss I loved your mom she was a sweet lady.*

Charlene shelton - November 10, 2017 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ *So sorry for the loss of Mariam. She was the sweetest lady you could ever meet. You all are in our thoughts and prayers!*

Terri McClure - November 10, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ *So sorry to hear about Mick. She was such a special lady. Love and prayers to you all.*

Sherrie and Jeff Weeks - November 10, 2017 at 12:00 AM

GD

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you all*

GW & Marlene Denton - November 10, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ *Thank God our paths crossed. We have been left with a legacy of good stories, wisdom and love! We will certainly have a void in our lives, but she will live in our hearts forever.*

David & Pauline Proffitt - November 10, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ *Kay and Nancy So sorry for the loss of your Mother. She was always so happy. The world lost a beautiful soul.*

Sandy Rolen - November 10, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ *So very sorry for your loss.*

Linda & Bud Dawson - November 09, 2017 at 12:00 AM

IT

“ *Sorry Kay & Duay and family my prayers are with you all*

Imogene Turner - November 09, 2017 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ *Such a sweet and kind lady. She will be missed by all who knew her. Rest in peace.*

Steven and Loretta Taylor - November 09, 2017 at 12:00 AM

IT

“ Sorry Kay & Duay and family my prayers are with you all

Imogene Turner - November 09, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Mick was a wonderful person and always a pleasure to be with and visit. Our prayers are with you all during this difficult time. She will truly be missed but we know she is rejoicing today with her Heavenly Father.

Michael and Linda Click - November 09, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ I sure am going to miss canning kraut with you and mamaw. You always made me laugh! Im gonna miss you.

Jana Webb - November 09, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ So sorry for y'all loss. Muck was a very sweet lady and always nice to me. Prayers.

Barbara Large - November 09, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ Sorry for your loss, and I can certainly appreciate your care for her in her final days....As difficult as they were, you will always cherish those memories.

Ray Fancher - November 09, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ *Mick will be greatly missed she was very kind and funny she always made me laugh have not seen her in about 5 years on our visits to MarjorieÆs I always ask about her With deepest sympathy. Rodney Yvonne Jason Jana Son of T*

Rodney Webb - November 09, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ *Miriam Itelle Shults Keener*

Delmar and Pat Williamson - November 09, 2017 at 12:00 AM