



Audrey Hardee Bailey

January 10, 1921 - March 18, 2017

Audrey Hardee Bailey departed this life peacefully on March 18, 2017, in the home from which she admired the Sarasota sunsets for the past 59 years.

She was born in Hague, Florida, on January 10, 1921, the youngest of six children in a family whose ancestors migrated to the state before it actually became a state. In her 96 years, she witnessed Florida grow from fewer than a million to 20 million souls.

She was a home economics major at Florida State College for Women, which prepared her for a career devoted to nurturing her family. She spent 38 fulfilling years as the wife of Charlie Bailey, WW II veteran, Sarasota banker and civic leader, and the past 37 years as his widow, stoically honoring his memory.

She was on the board of the Sarasota Cotillion, a volunteer for Meals on Wheels, and a member of First Baptist Church where she exercised absolute sovereignty over the back pew. After conferring on each of her grandchildren the gift of travel and a college education, she spent her final years gloating over their accomplishments and fretting over their safety whenever they were on the highway or in the air.

She often quipped that "for someone who doesn't like crowds, I sure created

one..." The crowd she created consists of daughter, Martha Petrey (Ken) of Ocala; sons, Dan Bailey (Nancy) and Ken Bailey (Sara) of Sarasota; eight grandchildren, Robin Diaz (Andrew) of Tampa; Charlie Bailey of Sarasota; Karin Hunt (Seab) of Ocala; Ashley Shultz (Chris) of Dallas; Jay Bailey (Christy) of Sarasota; Tricia Bailey (Winston-Salem, NC); Jud Bailey and Jessica Polk (Michael) of Sarasota; and twelve great-grandchildren, Olivia and Audrey Diaz of Tampa; Caroline, Bo and Kendall Hunt of Ocala; Jack, Catherine and Charlie Shultz of Dallas; Claire Bailey of Sarasota; Ashley, Gracie and Davis Bailey of Sarasota; and a baby girl Polk on the way.

There will be a private burial service, followed later by a memorial service on a date to be announced.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to a favorite charity or to First Baptist Church benevolence fund at P.O. Box 3539, Sarasota, FL 34230.

Tribute Wall

SE

“ *It's been years, but she was one that if you met her, she made a lifelong impression. She truly was the epitome of "matriarch". May she rest in peace and revel in the shining legacy she left in her beautiful family.*

Shelley Elebash - August 09, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ *My heartfelt condolences go out to the Bailey family upon the passing of their matriarch.*

Leslie Loftus - March 31, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ *Dale and Robert Burton send our prayers and hugs to the Bailey family at this sad time.*

Dale Burton - March 29, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Dan & Family:*

Please extend to your siblings my sincerest condolences for your Mother. As you know, she & my June would chat on every occasion of seeing each other at various social gatherings. Sincerely, Jack Shea

March 27, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ *The Grimes family extends to all of the Bailey family our love and support. May you be comforted by the many wonderful memories you have shared with this amazing woman.*

Michele and Caleb Grimes - March 22, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ *Susan and I offer our condolences to the entire Bailey clan*

Jim Tollerton - March 22, 2017 at 12:00 AM