



Bonnie Ruth Atchison

December 22, 1931 - September 27, 2025

With your eyes closed, you could easily identify Bonnie Atchison when she spoke in her native tongue, “Hey, my sweet precious angel! I luh-uh-uv you.” With a heart full of kindness and a life dedicated to service, Bonnie quietly left this world on Saturday, September 27, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of love and generosity. Her two sons, whom she treasured above all else, were with her by her bedside. In her mind, outlook, and attitude, she was 93 years young.

Born on one of the busiest shopping days of the Christmas season, Bonnie Ruth Loftis arrived December 22, 1931. She first graced the world in Birmingham, Alabama at South Highland Hospital - a welcomed gift and “favorite” child of her waiting parents, Annie Ruth Hills Loftis and Horace Haggard Loftis. We can NOW say “favorite” because her two brothers and her sister are no longer with us to dispute that fact.

Phoebe Donald Robinson wrote about “Ms. A,” as many students referred to her, in the May 8, 2012 newsletter of The Shelby County Reporter, “Bonnie Atchison has experienced many chapters in her life; daughter, wife, mother, young widow, teacher, second bride, grandmother, Baptist volunteer, Novella Club member, Chamber executive director, great-grandmother, and museum curator.” Indeed, Bonnie was not one to sit idly by and, eventually, wound up retiring three times. Ms. A served as a teacher for some 25 years and an

educator for life. She spent her final 20 years of teaching at Shelby County High School where she was an English teacher, cheerleading sponsor, and creator of a Department of Dramatic Arts. After retiring from SCHS, she served for 10 years as the first executive director of the South Shelby County Chamber of Commerce. When Bonnie left the Chamber of Commerce in 2003, she immediately began serving as curator of the Karl C. Harrison Museum of George Washington in Columbiana. This "Wonder Woman" was fully engaged in every position of service. In her remaining "free" time during retirement, she developed even more artistic talent and focused her eyes on the paint brush. Hundreds of paintings were sold or gifted to friends and family.

Not to brag, but... Full transparency: We're about to conspicuously boast. April 3, 2013 was declared Bonnie Atchison Day in Columbiana. Mayor Stancil Handley presented her with the Key to the City award for her outstanding service to the community. Five years later, Bonnie was inducted into the Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, class of 2018. In 2019, Positive Maturity recognized this spry 87-year-old in the Top 50 over 50 which celebrated those who "find opportunities to make a difference and become a catalyst in the world."

Bonnie's remarkable spirit is carried on by her two sons, Michael E. Mason (Judy), Timothy L. Mason, her stepson, Randy Atchison (Christine), 7 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and many in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins, and family too numerous to list but not forgotten. And last, but not least, there is Ms. A's extended family of relations and friends from every walk of life.

Ms. Bonnie is predeceased by her parents, Ruth and Horace Loftis, sister, Betty Ann Loftis Harper, her brothers, William Horace Loftis and James Barry Loftis, 2nd husband and love of her life, Harry Atchison, and 1st husband and

1st love, Lewis Edward Mason, father of her sons, Mike and Tim.

When we get to heaven, we can't wait to see Momma/Bonnie/Meemaw, rushing to meet us. She will greet us with a joyous, "My babies are here! My babies are here!"

The family requests those who wish to express sympathy to consider making a donation to

The Novella Club's Bonnie Atchison Scholarship Fund (Make checks payable to "The Novella Club Bonnie Atchison Scholarship and mail/drop off at Renasant Bank of Columbiana), the First Baptist Church of Columbiana, Alabama, the Shelby Council Arts Council, or a charitable donation of your choosing. Floral tributes may be sent to First Baptist Church, 208 N Main St, Columbiana, AL 35051.

Friends (and strangers she would love to have met) can visit with the family on Sunday afternoon, October 5, 2025 at the First Baptist Church of Columbiana from 1:30 until the time of the Service at 3:00 PM. A graveside service will be held on Monday morning beginning at 10:00, October 6, 2025, at Jefferson Memorial Gardens in Trussville, Alabama.

Cemetery Details

Jefferson Memorial Gardens - Hoover

2701 John Hawkins Pkwy
Hoover, AL 35244

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 5. 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Columbiana
208 N Main St.
Columbiana, AL 35051

Funeral Service

OCT 5. 3:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Columbiana
208 N Main St.
Columbiana, AL 35051

Tribute Wall

KM

“ *Kathy Morris lit a candle in memory of Bonnie Atchison*



Kathy Morris - October 14, 2025 at 08:28 AM

LD

“ *My life was blessed from knowing Mrs. Atchison! Her service yesterday was a beautiful tribute to her. I know there was so much more those closest to her could have said. Mrs. Atchison spread love everywhere she went. I will always feel her love when I think of her. And what joy she must have felt hearing her sons and other family sing beautiful hymns. Thank you for all the LOVE Mrs. Atchison!!!*

Lynn Dorris - October 06, 2025 at 09:53 AM

MS

“ *May God give you peace and strength during this time.*

Meka Stamps - October 02, 2025 at 11:51 PM

YR

“ *Mrs Bonnie and Mr Harry were such wonderful people. I thank God for allowing me to count them as friends.*

I remember when Bill and I were married, Mrs Bonnie was our "unofficial" photographer. She just stepped in and took it over in her "Mrs Bonnie way." Oh how you will be missed my dear friend. I love you. ❤️❤️❤️❤️

yvonne raia - October 02, 2025 at 11:26 PM

GS

“ Mrs. Atchison was a wonderful lady and very compassionate teacher. She helped me through some very difficult times during my high school years. She is one of the reasons I became a teacher. She will forever be remembered.



Gail (Jones) Sammons - October 02, 2025 at 02:47 PM

AB

“ I was blessed to have met and become close friends with Ms Bonnie last year! She was one of the most loving and kind person... She always made me feel special and I tried my best everyday that I was with her to make her feel the same . I miss our long talks, all of our jokes, and just having coffee together. She was definitely one of a kind and I will forever treasure our friendship and the time that I had with her.

Andrea Burcham - October 02, 2025 at 06:12 AM

TH

“ My condolences and prayers for the family. Bonnie Was a good friend. RIP

Tommie Head - October 01, 2025 at 10:27 PM

CC

“ Carissa Cook lit a candle in memory of Bonnie Atchison



Carissa Cook - September 30, 2025 at 03:16 PM

KM

“ *Kathy Morris lit a candle in memory of Bonnie Atchison*

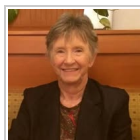


Kathy Morris - September 30, 2025 at 07:37 AM

EB

“ *May the Lord greet and bless Bonnie as she continues her eternal venture with our Lord and Savior and Jesus Christ*

Edward D Burquez - September 30, 2025 at 07:20 AM



“ *French Eil Lansford lit a candle in memory of Bonnie Atchison*



French Eil Lansford - September 29, 2025 at 07:09 PM