



Alleyna Lucinda McGrath Ellis

December 28, 1937 - October 22, 2012

Alleyna Lucinda McGrath Ellis of Kingston was born in Burrville, Tennessee on December 28, 1937. After a brief illness, she passed from this earth on October 22, 2012 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She was a member of the Kingston United Methodist Church.

After graduating from Sunbright High School, she attended nursing school at the University of Tennessee at Memphis, graduating in 1958. While at UT in Memphis, she played basketball for the 1950's version of the Lady Vols. She was the third of five generations of her family to attend the University of Tennessee. She was the second of what will be four generations of her family to be a registered nurse.

Her first nursing job was at Oak Ridge Methodist Hospital. She combined two of life's most noble professions when she began teaching nursing at the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville. From there she moved to St. Mary's Hospital nursing program and in 1967 she began a long tenure of teaching nursing at Cleveland State Community College. She retired from teaching at Cleveland State in 1993, but not from nursing. She worked as a nurse until just a few months before her death, most recently at Roane Medical Center. Her nursing and teaching careers spanned more than 54 years. Not only was she able to care for thousands of patients, she helped train several generations of East Tennessee nurses. She had a special place

in her heart for pediatrics and she passed this love on to many students. She has seen her chosen profession evolve profoundly during the seven decades in which she practiced it. She carried on a tradition which started with her mother and inspired her daughter and granddaughter.

The only thing that surpassed her love of caring for others, was the love for her family. She was happily married and devoted to the love of her life, Lewis Ellis, until his death in 2004. She took enormous pleasure and felt tremendous pride in the lives of her children, Christie and Chip. She adored and delighted in her grand children and the growing number of great grand children. She lovingly supported her children in their lives endeavors--loving them through the ups and downs, provided wise advice and thoughtful counsel. She loved her brother, sister in law and her many nieces and nephews.

Having grown up on a farm, she gained a lifelong love of animals and passed that love on to her children, but especially her son Chip. At one time or the other around her house, you could find many dogs, cats, birds, horses, chickens, roosters, cows, bulls, donkeys, and ponies. If there was a stray anywhere near, she would gladly make it a generous and welcome home.

She was preceded in death by her mother and father, Wilmoth and George McGrath and her husband Lewis "Snuffy" Ellis. She is survived by her brother and sister in law, George and Pat McGrath; her daughter Christie Farinash; her son, Lewis M. "Chip" Ellis (Lori); her grandchildren Lt. Joseph Farinash (Sharon), Tyler Ellis (Whittney), Sheena Miller (Kory) and Rebecca Farinash; nieces and nephews too numerous to name; her growing bevy of great grand children; her one-eyed Beagle Dog, Charlie; and her favorite son-in-law, Jerry. She loved all of them more than they will ever know.

The family will receive friends at Kyker Funeral Home in Kingston on Thursday October 25, 2012 from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m., with the funeral service to

follow. She will be interred in the Mount Vernon Cemetery in Burrville, Tennessee on Friday October 26, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider a contribution to an animal shelter of your choosing or to the Mount Vernon Cemetery, 394 Burville School Road, Sunbright, Tennessee 37872.

Tribute Wall

JS

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Alleyna Ellis was my favorite nursing instructor at Cleveland State Community College. She had a great sense of humor and put people at ease. She did not suffer fools, however. You had to know what you were doing. I graduated, got my RN and went back to school. I got my BSN and was hired to teach nursing at Cleveland State. I have taught there 12 years, got my master's degree, and am working on a PhD. We continue to improve the program. Alleyna was a great inspiration in the fact that she continued to work as a nurse. She could speak from experience and students listened. To this day she is my role model and I work prn (as needed) at a small local hospital.

judy norton - Reliance, TN - student - October 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

WF

“ Chip & Cristi,

Sorry about the loss of your mother. It's always hard to lose your mother.

I did, of course, know 'Snuffy' much better. I had talked to your mother by phone on two or three occasions. The last time I spoke with me was about three months when she called to see if I was a 'Notary Public'.

I pray that God will be with you at this time.

I'm just down the road if I can ever help you.

Your friend and neighbor.

Bill Leggins

William (Bill) Leggins - Kingston, TN - Neighbor & friend - October 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ you will always be a special part of our lives-sorry we can't be there at this time-know we're thinking of you.

kinch & jewel york - kingston, TN - friends - October 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ I cleaned for alleyna for a while i sure will miss her she became a dear friend to me and was very good to me we shared a lot over a few months every one loved her and will miss her i know i will God bless the family bj summers

B.J. Summers - oakdale, TN - friend - October 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Chip,,,was so sorry to her of the passing of your Mom...she was a sweet lady...you and your Family are in our prayers.

Beverly & Steve - Rockwood, TN - Friend - October 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ So sorry for your loss

David & Bernice Hennessee - Wartburg, TN - October 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GA

“ Alleyna was a pleasant woman who usually sat with my mother and me during the retired teachers meetings. I also knew her from volunteering at Roane Medical Center. She was working in the ER during my shift. I pray that her family heals soon and I want them to know that she was a very special and caring individual. It was a pleasure to have known her. My sympathy to all who loved her.
Gwen Smith

Gwen Smith - Kingston, TN - retired teacher and volunteer at - October 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ we are sorry for your lost

Joe and Betty Young - kingston, TN - Friend and neighbor - October 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM