



Mildred Belle "Milly" Shearer

August 20, 1922 - November 13, 2017

Milly Belle Dyer Shearer lived a long and joyful life. She was 95 years old when she passed peacefully on November 13, 2017. Her daughter, Ann, and son-in-law Tom were by her bedside, holding her hand and playing Big Band music on the radio to send her to her final resting place. It is not an exaggeration to say that every person who knew Milly loved her and will remember her as a sweet, gentle soul.

Born in Knoxville Tennessee in 1922, Milly was one of five children of the late John Mitchell and Nellie (Hicks) Dyer. Milly was a member of Central Baptist Church of Fountain City where she served as the church secretary and graduated from Central High School in 1940. During WW II, she worked as an operator for Western Union and was one of the first people to learn that the war was over. Shortly after, she met her future husband at a USO event and they fell in love. Milly loved Tennessee and it is fitting that her final days were spent in the place she loved so much. It was Milly's wish to return home and she died just west of Knoxville in Harriman, Tennessee.

Milly and Jim Shearer were married November 17, 1945. As a young couple, they lived in New Jersey, then returned to Knoxville where Jim earned engineering degrees from UT, and eventually settled in Akron Ohio where they raised their family. Jim and Milly were married for 54 years until Jim's death in 1999. Milly was a volunteer for over 30 years at Akron General Medical Center where she loved to work the Art-Cart. She was also a member of The Faculty Women's Club at The University of Akron for many years.

Milly leaves precious memories to her three children: Douglas (Debbie) of Silver Lake, Ohio; Philip (Janet) of Longwood Florida, and Ann (Tom) Clark of Harriman, Tennessee. Amanda and CJ Shearer remember their Nana as a loving and supportive grandmother. Milly was fortunate to spend time with her two remaining sisters, Elsie Beckler and Stella Chadwick as well as nieces Lisa (Steve) Gentry, Amy Chadwick (Mike) Jones, and Suzi (Tom) Holling and nephews Mitchell Chadwick, Bob McDonald, and Steve (Julie) Heck, and many cousins in the New Jersey area.

Along with her family, Milly also “mothered” and “grandmothered” many people who have fond and loving memories of the special times they had with Miss Milly. She will live on in the hearts of so many who loved her.

At Milly’s request, there will not be a funeral. She had her celebration of life for her 90th birthday, a party that was attended by more than 100 people from all over the country. At a later date, her family will have a private memorial service in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, a place so beloved by Milly.

In lieu of flowers or other forms of remembrance, the family asks that you post your favorite Mom, Nana, Aunt Milly or Miss Milly story on this website so that her children may be comforted by your memories. With a grateful heart, we bid Milly farewell. Kyker Funeral Home of Harriman is serving the Shearer Family.

Tribute Wall

EC

“ Miss Milly will always hold a very special part in my heart. I will always try to model the same kindness that Miss Milly demonstrated throughout her entire life. She was filled with compliments and kind words and never had anything negative to say. She loved to compliment me on my dimples, she always called me "Miss Dimples". It was truly a blessing to have Miss Milly in my life, she will be missed by so many.

Emily Cohen - December 06, 2017 at 12:01 PM

SH

“ Aunt Milly was a special person for my mother (Milly's oldest sister) throughout her life even though they lived in different parts of the country. I remember when Milly came out to visit my mother In Portland, Oregon when my mother was beginning to slip into the dark hole of Alzheimer's. Aunt Milly was very supportive and cheerful in support of my mother. I had just learned to cook with a wok and I recall that Aunt Milly had bought me a brand new silver electric wok which I subsequently used to cook my mom and Milly a wok dinner when Milly was still staying at my mom's place.

*Steve Heck
Portland, Oregon*

Stephen Heck - December 02, 2017 at 01:39 PM

LI

“ We're so sorry to learn that Miss Milly has left this world, and we send our deepest sympathies to all the extended Shearer Family. We pray that all your happy memories will be a comfort as you grieve.

We have fond memories of our times with Miss Milly. She was so gracious and elegant - and, as others have written, she sure liked children, and our boys remember how sweet she was to them- and how she loved their blue eyes!

Miss Milly may have left this world, but she will live in the hearts of everyone who was blessed to have known her - and we are lucky to be in that group.

Love to all~

Lindy, Ed, James and Dan

Lindy - November 27, 2017 at 09:56 PM

PB

“When I heard the news of Miss Milly’s passing, I could not help but look through photos of my kids when they were little. Birthdays, Christmas, Easter...every occasion which Miss Milly and Mr. Jimmy were so much a part of. In most of these pictures, Emily, Travis and Michael are wearing beautifully coordinated outfits which Miss Milly had given as gifts. “I just love to dress little girls,” she told me when Emily was born. Of course, when Travis and Michael came along it turned out that she loved dressing little boys, too! What she loved most of all, though, was family. Fortunately for me, kinship was not a requirement for family for Miss Milly. I will always gratefully remember the graciousness and kindness she showed to everyone she met. She was truly generous, not just of material things, but of love, care and thoughtfulness—of welcoming people into her life without reserve. Thank you, Miss Milly for all the blessings of knowing you. I sincerely believe, as Doug said to me, that you are in a better place.

Paula Brosowski

Paula Brosowski - November 25, 2017 at 08:37 PM



“I’m often reminded of Miss Millie when I think of several pivotal points in my life. I was having my 3rd child after a ten year hiatus and the gang, including Millie gave me great baby gifts. But , Millie was intuitive and she knew I needed something for me-the big mama. She bought me the prettiest robe from VS ever. Still use it today. Her kindness was everywhere. As she aged, her kind heart never failed to come through even when she couldn’t remember much. Many a time at Deb and Doug’s she would comment about my curly hair, sometimes every time I walked into the room in an hours time. I will remember her southern charm and the beautiful people she put into my life. I will see her again in our Lord’s house.

Jan Heighway - November 25, 2017 at 05:38 PM



“ *Milly was the sweetest, most understanding, kind, loving, big hearted, true southern Lady we ever had the honor of knowing. When our daughter was a baby and we went to visit, Milly told us we could leave but she was keeping Erin. When Erin started school, Milly & Jim would keep her a few days over Christmas break each year, and shower her with love! When she was a young teen, one of her biggest wishes was granted. She was graciously given Ann's canopy bed. Some of Erin's fondest memories are of her time with Milly. We all loved Milly, and cherished every minute spent with her. Heaven now has one of the most endearing angels whom ever walked this earth.*

Michelle Glenn Yasco - November 24, 2017 at 07:54 PM

PO

“ *I so loved seeing Millie at Deb's on prayer group night... what a gentle soul and such an elegant lady..we could learn a lot from our seniors in regard to their grace and values...much love and prayers to Doug and Debbie and all of your family..❤️Paula and Jim Otis*

paula Otis - November 24, 2017 at 03:14 PM

AS

“ *Ever time I saw my Nana, I always left feeling like a million dollars. She was always so complimentary, never negative. She always told me that she was blessed to have a granddaughter like me, but I was the blessed one to have a grandmother as kind and gentle as her. My Nana knew no strangers. Anyone who knew her was lucky to be loved by her. I know in my heart that she is now with Papa. Love you Nana and miss you like crazy.*

Amanda Shearer - November 23, 2017 at 11:03 AM

DS

“ 1 file added to the album *Shearer/Dyer Family Pictures*



Deb Shearer - November 22, 2017 at 12:46 PM

JT

“ Oh, Ms. Shearer (Millie) - how to begin..... Truly, in my life, I have never known as gracious and kind person as you. You always had a smile and a hug for everyone that needed one - or, lots. You took me under your wing when I lost my parents and then again when, both, me and my infant daughter, Wendy, needed some loving arms to hold us.

Can't think of one particular story to share because there are so many. I loved her laugh and the sweet Tennessee way she said my name - Joyce Ellen, Honey! She took my daughter and me into her home when we needed some kindness. She and her husband, Mr. Shearer (Jim) always made sure we felt welcome and "wanted".

I guess the one thing that always comes to mind is her love of good food. She introduced me to many recipes that I had never tasted. She made those dishes so especially fancy - just by her touch. I still have recipes that she gave me and I cherish them - especially Veal Scallopini.

I can only imagine that she was welcomed with open arms when she arrived in Heaven - especially those arms belonging to her sweetheart - Jim. She truly was a grand example of an endearing spirit, a good Christian, a great friend and a person to be remembered by anyone that ever met her.

Thank you for the influence you had in my life! I will always love you!

Joyce Ellen Thursby

Joyce Thursby - November 22, 2017 at 11:17 AM

CB

“ I remember asking Deb and Doug...is she ever in a bad mood? Their answer was rarely. What a perfect role model for all the children (and adults) who knew her. There were so many memories of laughing with Milly I cannot recount them all here. Whenever I saw her she found the perfect compliment to encourage me. Whenever she saw my children, Michael and Danny, she bubbled over with oohs and ahhs telling me they were handsome, smart and of course that she would take them home with her! I met Milly long ago when Deb and I were in college (before she was a Shearer!). From the moment I met her I could tell that her positive attitude and charming smile guided this family in the face of life's challenges.

Milly had great taste in jewelry and fashion (which Ann must have inherited!). It was far more than Milly's fascination with my jewelry or what I was wearing. She always made sure that we knew how special we were inside and out. Milly was the ultimate "encourager" of all the people in her life.

What we learned dearest Milly...is that you were the special one. I am sure that God is joyful welcoming you into His kingdom! Love, peace and hope to all the Shearers especially Ann, Phil and Doug. Loved that mom of yours!
Cathy Wood Buck

Cathy Buck - November 22, 2017 at 06:50 AM

YI

“ Aunt Milly: classy , funny, witty, loving, caring. I had the pleasure to meet her 18 years ago when I arrived from Cuba. Her contagious smile and warm hugs made me feel right at home. I'll forever cherish and remembered these memories. My deepest condolences

Love,
Yirska and children

Yirska - November 21, 2017 at 09:15 PM

DS

“ I could have looked the world over and never found a more loving and supportive mother-in-law. She loved my curly hair, my simple jewelry, and most importantly, she loved my family. Losing both parents at a young age, my brother, Kevin, and I were so grateful to have someone "mother" us, and Mom extended her love to include my brother's children Emily, Travis and Michael who knew "Miss Milly" as someone who thought they had the prettiest eyes, prettiest smile, and prettiest hair. She was everything a grandmother could be to these children. Every person needs a Milly in their life and we were lucky to have her until she turned 95 years ago. I will miss her but hope to honor her life by continuing her loving legacy.

Debbie Shearer - November 21, 2017 at 08:17 PM

JR

“ My sincere sympathy to Doug, Phil, and Anne on the passing of their mom, Miss Milly to me. One of my best memories of her was how taken she was with my son Ryan. She had only met him a few times, but she would say, "how's my boyfriend, Ryan? I love his blue eyes and curly hair. You tell him he can come see me any time!" So cute! Her smile will never fade in my memory.

Jill Rango - November 21, 2017 at 07:05 PM

BS

“ My favorite Milly saying was when she bought her last car white with blue velour interior, she referred to it as her going to Jesus car. A great saying that I have borrowed.

Milly left behind a very special family, the best legacy anyone can have.

Betty Jo Scurei

Betty jo scurei - November 21, 2017 at 08:06 AM

DS

“ 51 files added to the album Family



Debbie Shearer - November 19, 2017 at 01:26 PM