



# **Shirley Joyce Vernon**

JUL 16, 1931 - OCT 1, 2011



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COMPLETE FUNERAL SERVICES

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## **Shirley Joyce Vernon**

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**S**hirley Joyce Vernon went to be with the Lord peacefully, surrounded by her family on October 1, 2011, at the age of 80. Shirley was born in Decatur, Illinois on July 16, 1931, the daughter of Leo and Viola Richards. She graduated from Decatur High in 1949 and began working as a secretary at Roach School. Shirley entered nursing school at Decatur Macon County Hospital in 1951 and received her RN diploma in 1954. After working as a nurse, both at Decatur Memorial Hospital and for Dr. C. Elliott Bell, Shirley worked 18 years as a Public Health Nurse for the Macon County Health Department. She retired from the Health Department in 1996.

Shirley married Jack Davidson in 1953, and together they had five children. In 1993, she married Clarence Vernon.

Shirley was an active member of Faith Baptist Church. She loved teaching Bible verses to children at AWANA, singing in the choir, attending prayer group and Bible study. During retirement, in addition to loving and caring for her family, Shirley delivered lunches for Meals on Wheels, assisted the American Red Cross with blood pressure screenings, volunteered at her church, at Northeast Community Fund and at New Life Pregnancy Center.

Shirley is survived by her children, Pamela (Robert) Marshall of Atlanta, GA, Patty (Paul) Martin of Decatur, Doug (Norma) Davidson of Decatur, Penny (Mark) Weaver of Decatur, Susan York of Atlanta, GA, and step-children, Janice (Edward) Swope of Decatur, Michael (Shelley) Vernon of Mt. Zion, and Ronda Vernon of Decatur; her brother, Robert (Rosemary) Richards of Decatur, and sisters, Helen Elaine Curd of Victorville, CA, and Wilma (Jerry) Miller of Decatur. Shirley is also survived by 16 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband and two brothers, William Richards and Harold Richards.

Shirley will be remembered for how much she loved her family and the Lord; her



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service to friends, the community and her church.

Visitation will be held at Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home from 5pm-7pm on Tuesday, October 4, 2011, and a Celebration of Life immediately following visitation at 7pm. Graveside service will be at 10am on Wednesday, October 5, 2011, at Fairlawn Cemetery.

A special thanks to all who provided love and support for Shirley during her courageous battle with cancer; her friends, her Faith Baptist Church family, DMH Hospice, Dr. Velasco and special caregivers, Liz, Carla, and PJ.

Memorials may be made to New Life Pregnancy Center, Decatur, Illinois, and to Faith Baptist Church, Decatur, Illinois.

The family of Shirley Joyce Vernon is being served by Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home, 2091 N. Oakland Ave. Decatur. View the on-line obituary and send condolences to the family at [www.gracelandfairlawn.com](http://www.gracelandfairlawn.com)



## Tribute Wall

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BW

**Barbara Woltman** posted:

I KNEW COUSIN SHIRLEY WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL. EVEN THEN I KNEW SHE WAS A CHRISTIAN. WHAT A COMFORT TO KNOW THAT SHE IS NOW WITH OUR LORD. MY CONDOLENCES TO EACH OF YOU.

October 11 at 11:36 AM

BR

**Bill Richards** posted:

Dear Pam, Patty, Doug, Susan and Penny and families. My deepest sympathy to you all. Our family has lost a special gift to us all. Thank you Aunt Shirly for being so kind and patient with me. Even when Doug and I did not always behave. When you get to Heavens' gates, please put in a good word for me. love bill

October 4 at 6:55 PM

CM

**Cheryl McBride** posted:

I a very sorry for your loss. You are in my prayers.Cheryl

October 4 at 11:05 AM

JH

**Jason And Shawn Hendershot** posted:

Shirley was a very special lady and we enjoyed getting to know her. She always had a great smile and was a wonderful person and will be greatly missed. We have thought of her often and heaven is a little brighter with her in it.

October 4 at 9:28 AM

JU

**Janet Uphoff** posted:

Pamela, I am so sorry to hear about your Mom. You and your family have been through alot as you watched her fight a strong battle. Please know that she loved you and was so appreciative of the loving care you provided.My thoughts are with all of you at this sad time.Janet

October 3 at 3:03 PM



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October 3 at 3:02 PM

DY

**Dave And Laura York** posted:

We are sorry to hear about Shirley. You all will be in our thoughts.

October 3 at 10:23 AM

PW

**Paul & Maggie Wilhour** posted:

To the entire Richards and Vernon Families our thoughts and prayers are with you. Being away from Illinois does not seperate family. We know Shirley is with pain and with the Lord today. Remember the Good Times as I know there are many.

October 3 at 8:30 AM

MR

**Michelle Brown/Mickey Richards** posted:

From our family to yours,Our deepest sympathy to all of Aunt Shirley's children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.Cousins, second cousins and third cousins.Know that we care and wish you inner strength and peace during this time.She's already leading a choir, listen carefully and you can hear her soprano "In The Garden".Love to All

October 3 at 8:13 AM

KH

**Kay Hampshire** posted:

Aunt Shirley – I miss you already. You hold a very special place in my heart. Your love and your big/soft shoulders – have given me much needed strength at various times in my life. I know there are a lot of family/friends up there with open arms – please give my dad and grandma/grandpa – extra hugs for me. PS – I know we had plans for some driving trips in that fun red Rav4! I am thinking maybe there is one waiting for you to tool around in – hope so ?? and my thoughts and prayers are with all your/our family – Love, Kay

October 3 at 8:02 AM



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**Mary M. Richards** posted:

Remembering our dear Shirley, a niece, whose loving, caring ways and thoughtfulness made her seem more like a sister, to me. Heaven is brighter because she is there, with our Saviour. Aunt Mary R.

October 3 at 7:56 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Shirley by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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