



Cora Beal Shields

July 24, 1925 - December 20, 2023

Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford

“...her children rise up and call her blessed...”Proverbs 31.28

Cora Beal Hardison Shields, age 98, passed away at her home on December 20, 2023, surrounded by children and grandchildren. Visitation will be Saturday December 23, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Oxford Church of Christ. A funeral service will immediately follow at 12:30 p.m., at Oxford Church of Christ. Interment will be at the Oxford Memorial Cemetery. Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford is in charge of arrangements.

Cora Beal was born on July 24, 1925 on a dairy farm in Carters Creek, Tennessee. Her paternal grandfather was the attending physician. She graduated from David Lipscomb College and Peabody College. In 1948, she married Doug Shields, Sr. and after working briefly as a teacher, she embarked on a great venture with him to build a wonderful Christian family. After living several places in Middle Tennessee, they moved to Oxford in 1959 and partnered in the ministries of the Oxford church of Christ from then until sidelined by age and infirmity. Doug and Cora Beal worked with other zealous Christians to establish the University Christian Student Center in 1960, and that ministry continues today under direction of the Oxford church of Christ as the “Rebels for Christ.” Cora Beal excelled in offering hospitality to small and

great and she also served for many years in bus ministry, World Bible School, and as a children's Bible class teacher. She freely offered love and affection encouragement to her church family, advice and counsel to those who sought it, and fun and laughter to all nearby. Miss Cora Beal was known for her quick wit and for feeding multitudes of family and friends sumptuous food at her table.

Cora Beal is survived by two daughters, McKay Murray (Lambert) and Anne Lehman, both of Oxford; two sons, Doug Shields, Jr. (Becky) of Oxford and Ben Shields (Sheila) of Little Rock, AR; eleven grandchildren, Nathan Murray (Carla), Alice-Anne Light (Brad), Laura Shields, Bradley Shields (Paige), Harry Lehman III (Annie), Heather Kellis (Ross), Haley Main (Hunter), Benjamin Shields (Lindsey), Kayely-Morganne Schingle (Tyler), Anna-Grace Simmons (Austin), and Molly-Elizabeth Shields; and by thirteen great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Shields was preceded in death by her husband, F. Douglas Shields, Sr., her parents, Herschel Hardison and Jane Jennings McKay Hardison; three sisters, Jane McKay Anderson, Anne Hardison Neil, Helen Hayden Hardison; three brothers, James Hardison, Harold Hardison and Jack Terrell Hardison; and two grandchildren, Landon Murray and Sarah-Jane Shields Bedwell.

Donations and memorials in honor of Cora Beal Shields may be made to the University Christian Student Center (409 Jackson Ave. West, Oxford, MS 38655) or World Bible School (www.worldbibleschool.net/gifts/new).

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **23**. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Oxford Church of Christ
409 N Lamar Blvd
Oxford, MS 38655

Funeral Service

DEC **23**. 12:30 PM (CT)

Oxford Church of Christ
409 N Lamar Blvd
Oxford, MS 38655

Tribute Wall

WG

“ *Cora Beale created a welcoming atmosphere at her home, whether at a beautiful party on the lawn, looking like something from a magazine, or much more informally, welcoming two acquaintances who just wanted to walk through the woods of her property. Moreover, she was an active hostess, tending to each person so they felt seen and valued. I am grateful to have been one of her many guests in my early years in Oxford and treasure those memories.*

Wendy Garrison - December 31, 2023 at 10:56 AM

PB

“ *Cora Beal and Dr. Doug Shields were two of the best people I have known. Full of grace, kindness and hospitality. Their work and contribution to the Christian Student Center will be remembered by all who lived there and God will reward them for their work. What a wonderful couple. We were all blessed to have known them.*

*Paul Brown, Ole Miss class of 1977
Former resident of the Christian Student Center*

Paul Wendell Brown - December 23, 2023 at 04:17 PM



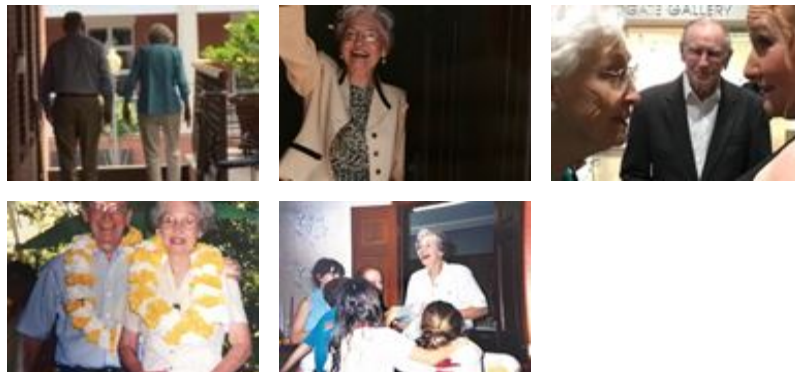
“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Cora Beal Shields.*



December 23, 2023 at 11:26 AM



“ 56 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Coleman Funeral Home - December 22, 2023 at 05:28 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Cora Beal Shields.



December 22, 2023 at 12:58 PM



“ *We will miss her bright light. She was the epitome of a godly righteousness disciple. In her presence you never doubted you were loved. Her hospitality set the bar for us all. We still wonder how she managed all the kinfolk when we gathered at her house! As children we delighted in her humor and sense of fun. We even loved the duty charts!*

Susan Lynn VanHorn - December 21, 2023 at 09:48 PM

BB

Aunt Corie was my favorite Aunt. You never doubted your welcome wherever you saw her. Don always called her home Shangri-La because of the heavenly love that covered you when you went there. She was a tireless worker for Christ and her family. I learned much about Southern hospitality from her. I will miss her smile of welcome, and her unconditional love. Enjoy your heavenly reward Aunt Corie. Love, Bonnie Barker

Bonnie Barker - December 22, 2023 at 12:52 PM

LL

We were around the Shields a few time and enjoyed our time in their home, a cozy, warm and welcoming place. We were welcomed like we'd always been part of the family and the family dinners were delicious. We enjoyed Cora Beal's wit and humor making it a joy to be around her. We'll remember her fondly.

Lisa Light - December 22, 2023 at 09:29 PM

RH

“ *Oh my! What a special , wonderful woman!! I loved her dearly. Rebecca Hellums*

Rebecca Hellums - December 21, 2023 at 08:13 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Cora Beal Shields.*



December 21, 2023 at 04:11 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Cora Beal Shields.*



December 21, 2023 at 01:21 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Cora Beal Shields.*



December 21, 2023 at 11:06 AM