



Shirley Heatherly

October 6, 1939 - January 3, 2023

Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?" Matthew 6:25-27

"Aren't five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God's sight." Luke 12:6

Shirley Heatherly, 83, of Oxford passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 03, 2023, at North Mississippi Medical Center in Oxford. The family will celebrate Shirley's life with a Memorial Showing of *The Terminator*: 9:00 AM at Malco's Paradiso Theater (584 South Mendenhall Road, Memphis, TN) followed by a graveside service at 1:30 PM in Memorial Park Cemetery, (5668 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN)

Shirley was born on October 06, 1939, daughter to loving parents Thomas and Sadie Hanshew Burton who raised her in Fayetteville, Arkansas. They taught her to have a strong faith in God, to respect hard work for honest pay, and to always love and rely on family.

After graduating high school, Shirley married Herb Hodges, and they began their own family with daughter Shari, followed a few years later by their son, Bryan. The family eventually moved to Memphis, and although the couple ended up separating, Memphis remained Shirley's home for decades. It's where she met and married the love of her life, Thomas Heatherly, and the two enjoyed a wonderful, loving relationship until his passing in 2015.

Shirley was the heart of her family and social circle, which included all of her children's friends, and her co-workers whom she treated like extended family. Shirley worked for many years as District Manager for Gibson Greetings, managing one of the largest regions of the national company until her retirement. She took pride in her work and always performed it to the highest standard while remaining the boss that everyone wanted to work for.

Shirley and Tom loved opening their home to friends of her kids. Allen Dunn and John Fulghum were particularly special to her. An unflagging source of support, rides, and supper to her children's friends, Shirley was like a second mother to many hungry, loud and unruly young people, and if they ever "got on her last nerve" she never showed it. All of them knew Shirley for her wonderful smile and genuine laughter, and her constant advice, "be careful," and, "don't do anything to get hurt." She loved laughing at everyone's jokes, even the bad ones. With her in your audience, you couldn't help but feel like Richard Pryor.

Shirley also had loving relationships with her stepchildren and their extended families, the Weatherlys and the Henrys of Memphis; and after moving to Oxford in their later years, Shirley and Tom developed a special relationship with son-in-law Bob Holt, whom they loved and respected, and Bob's mother Sally Holt, who became one of their dearest friends. Shirley also had close bonds with Suzette Armstrong, whom she loved very much, as well as

caregivers Kanasha, Angel, and many other dedicated companions.

An avid fan of mystery novels and television crime dramas, Shirley could pick the killer out in any mystery show within the first fifteen minutes, which could make the last 30 minutes rather dull for other viewers. However, she most enjoyed watching action movies from the 1980's and 1990's, especially the movies of Arnold Schwarzenegger, to whom she was so devoted that she almost disowned her son Bryan when he went too far critiquing a new release. She also adored unlikely icons like Jackie Chan, Clint Eastwood, Harrison Ford and Chow Yun-Fat. If a movie was deigned to have "too much talky-talky" by Shirley and Tom, it was always time to watch some action and indulge in bad "Ahnold" impressions. Shirley loved spoilers, and would almost always ask at the beginning of a movie if the hero died by the end. If so, she didn't want to watch that movie. She wanted to see a world where the heroes lived and happy endings existed.

Shirley was also an enthusiastic supporter of Ole Miss and Tennessee Volunteer Football, although her heart truly belonged to her beloved Arkansas Razorbacks, always. Additionally, she took tremendous joy in her family's pets and was a loving "grandma" to many a four-legged companion.

If you knew and loved Shirley, her dearest wish would be that you be happy, remember to laugh freely, and to always be careful- don't do anything to get hurt. If she had final words to pass along, they would be words of affirmation and love, but her loved ones would like to think that she might also say, "I'll be back."

Her surviving family grieve her loss but continue forward with the deepest gratitude that she was part of their lives- one son, Bryan Hodges (Suzette Armstrong) of Ponder, Texas; one daughter, Shari (Robert) Holt of Oxford, Mississippi; one brother, Jack (Kathy) Burton of West Fork, Arkansas.

Shirley was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Henry Heatherly; parents, Thomas Burton and Sadie Hanshew Burton; three siblings.

In place of traditional flowers, the family asks that monetary contributions be given to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (<https://www.stjude.org/>.) The staff at Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford is to serve the family as they walk through this season of loss.

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Cemetery Details

Memorial Park Cemetery

5668 Poplar Ave.
Memphis, TN 38119

Previous Events

Memorial Showing

FEB **25**. 9:00 AM (CT)

Malco's Paradiso Theater
584 South Mendenhall Road
Memphis, TN

The Terminator: 9:00 AM at Malco's Paradiso Theater (584 South Mendenhall Road, Memphis, TN)

Graveside Service

FEB **25**. 1:30 PM (CT)

Memorial Park Cemetery
5668 Poplar Ave.
Memphis, TN 38119

Tribute Wall

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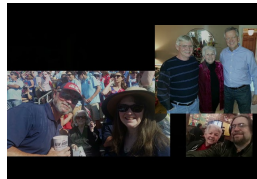
“ Thinking of my dear Mama today following her wonderful memorial yesterday. She would have had a blast at the memorial showing of *The Terminator*! Thank you to all who attended the film and the graveside service. We honored one of the best humans ever to have walked the earth. Love you, dear Mama, more than I can say!



Shari Holt - February 27, 2023 at 11:49 AM

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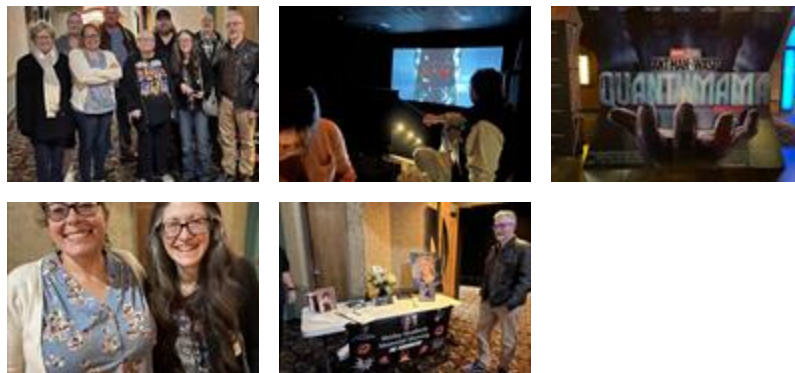
“ 1 file added to the album Shirley Heatherly Tribute Film



Shari Holt - February 26, 2023 at 06:12 PM

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“ 6 files added to the album Memorial Showing of *The Terminator*



Shari Holt - February 26, 2023 at 06:00 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Shirley Heatherly.*



February 19, 2023 at 09:55 PM



“ *I think of you every day mom.*



Bryan Hodges - January 28, 2023 at 09:41 AM



“ --- *Lal, Tani and Eileen purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Shirley Heatherly.*



--- **Lal, Tani and Eileen** - January 24, 2023 at 09:34 PM