



Shirley F. Bowden

August 3, 1935 - November 27, 2021

Shirley F. Bowden, 86, of Delmar, passed away peacefully on Saturday, November 27, 2021, at her home.

She was born August 3, 1935, in Seaford, a daughter of the late Francis and Hattie Mae (Smith) Moore.

In her youth, Shirley attended Delmar schools. While raising a family she enrolled in nursing school in Georgetown and enjoyed a career of over 50 years as an LPN. While she got her start at Peninsula General Hospital, she soon moved onto Nanticoke Memorial Hospital. To support her family, she also worked at the Methodist Manor House, working shifts at both simultaneously for 28 years. She continued her career in nursing at the Manor House after retiring from hospital (38 years) until her retirement with 40 years of service because she loved it there and enjoyed her relationships with both her coworkers and the residents. She once said that taking care of people is what her life was about. She was an active member of St. Stephen's United Methodist Church and the Delmar VFW Post 8276 Ladies Auxiliary. When not working she loved raising her family, bowling and later in life she was able to travel and really enjoyed bus trips and cruises. Making memories with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren provided so much satisfaction for Shirley. Family reunions, holidays and supporting grandchildren in their sporting events and school functions made her life complete.

She is survived by children, Debra Hastings (Stephen) of NC, Donna Figgs of Delmar, Edward Ralph (Faye) of FL, Linda Budd, Susan Elliott (Robert),

Kenneth Ralph (Karen), Karen Bradley (Danny), Kevin Ralph (Laura), Scott Ralph (Tiffany), all of Delmar; several step children; 18 grandchildren; 34 great grandchildren; 7 great-great grandchildren; sisters, Barbara O'Neal (William) of Texas and Frances Smith of Ocean View; several nieces and nephews; and her beloved cat, "Meme." She is also survived by her special caregiver and her "angel," Ronda Moor.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her beloved husband, William Bowden, who passed in 1998; a brother, Richard Moore; a great granddaughter, Lainey Mitchell; and a sons-in-law, Greg Budd and Walter Scott.

A visitation for family and friends will be held on Thursday, December 9, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 at Short Funeral Home in Delmar, followed by a funeral service which begins at 11:00. The Reverend Phyllis Walton will officiate. Interment will follow at St. Stephen's Cemetery in Delmar.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in her memory to St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 101 E. State Street, Delmar, DE 19940 or Delmar High School Athletic Department, P.O. Box 200, Delmar, DE 19940 or St Jude's Children's Research Hospital by visiting <https://www.stjude.org/donate/>.

Arrangements are in the care of Short Funeral Home in Delmar. Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.shortfh.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Stephen's Cemetery

State Street
Delmar, DE 19940

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Short Funeral Home
13 E Grove Street
Delmar, DE 19940
(302) 846-2525

Funeral Service

DEC 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Short Funeral Home
13 E Grove Street
Delmar, DE 19940
(302) 846-2525

Tribute Wall



“ *Short Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Shirley F. Bowden*



Short Funeral Home - December 09, 2021 at 10:55 AM



“ *Shirley F. Bowden*

January 29, 2023 at 01:28 PM



“ *111 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Short Funeral Home - December 08, 2021 at 11:40 AM

TS

Miss and love you mom mom more than you will ever know! Love Tami

Tamila Small - December 09, 2021 at 11:39 AM



“ *Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Shirley F. Bowden.*



December 06, 2021 at 10:56 AM



“ *Dearest Mother, you were my compass guiding each of us in our paths of life. There will forever be an empty space in my heart with your name, though my heart smiles knowing you are no longer in pain or in darkness, for now you are in brightness. And as we begin our new journey without you, I will treasure the beautiful gift left: the passion of life, strength, and your unconditional love. Your daughter, Debra*

Debra Hastings - December 03, 2021 at 09:32 PM



“ *Finest Farewell Spray was purchased for the family of Shirley F. Bowden.*



December 02, 2021 at 09:19 AM



“ *Mom we love you and miss you so much. Love Karen, Danny, Danielle, & Nate*

Karen Bradley - December 02, 2021 at 08:45 AM

NW

“ Kristen, Ari, Ed & Faye - we are so sorry for your loss. We know she loved you all so much, so take comfort in all the great memories! We are praying for you guys to have peace knowing she is rejoicing with Jesus. You all are in our thoughts and prayers!!

Nick & Brittney Watt - December 01, 2021 at 04:36 PM

BB

“ B & B Brittingham lit a candle in memory of Shirley F. Bowden



B & B Brittingham - December 01, 2021 at 04:26 PM

MJ

“ I had the pleasure of working with Ms Shirley at the manor house, she was an amazing nurse, prayers for her friends and family. Rest in haven Ms. Shirley

melie Julien - November 30, 2021 at 09:27 PM

LF

“ Love, Robert, Susan & Family purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Shirley F. Bowden.



Love, Robert, Susan & Family - November 30, 2021 at 12:13 PM

DL

“ *Doris Brittingham Legates lit a candle in memory of Shirley F. Bowden*



Doris Brittingham Legates - November 30, 2021 at 12:14 AM



“ *I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I worked with Shirley for a short time at Methodist Manor House and she was always so kind, supportive, and caring to residents and new nurses. She was a gem and truly made an impact on me. Shirley was a true nurse's nurse and because of her sweet smile, gently way and kindness... she will be missed by many.*

Kathy Foxwell - November 29, 2021 at 06:48 PM

KK

“ *I am going to miss you. Remember to look down from heaven this spring. My flower beds will for you*

Karen and Kenny - November 29, 2021 at 06:29 PM

KK

“ *Karen And Kenny lit a candle in memory of Shirley F. Bowden*



Karen and Kenny - November 29, 2021 at 06:26 PM

DS

“ My deepest condolences to the family! I met Shirley a very long time ago through my sister in law Donna Scott Figgs. She really had a great mother Hattie Moore who I knew the most of all. Hattie had that little girl giggle laugh that I will never forget. RIP Shirley you sure did have great kids and grandchildren! Your great legacy will live on!

Deborah Scott-Serres - November 29, 2021 at 12:36 PM

KH

Condolences going out to all of the Family in the loss of Shirley. She was a nice lady and her Mom...Miss Hattie was too. I used to go to Miss Hattie's and had so much fun there with all of the kids. I always felt at home there
God bless you all. Many hugs for all.
Blessings, Karl and Kay Short Habig Delmar, Delaware

Karl and Kay Short Habig - December 01, 2021 at 10:11 PM