



Dr. Mary Ben Christiansen

September 11, 1931 - November 30, 2025

Dr. Mary Ben Christiansen, 94, of Newnan, passed away Sunday, November 30, 2025, at Piedmont Newnan Hospital. She was born September 11, 1931, in Atlanta, GA, to the late George E. Erwin & Mary Ben Erwin. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sons, Rick Rogers, Shawn McDorman, Scott McDorman, her husbands, John McDorman and Chris Christiansen.

Mary Ben was an only child who grew up in Avondale Estates, just outside of Atlanta, and later graduated from Atlanta High School. She went on to receive her bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate in Education from the University of Georgia. She became the third Director of the Howard schools in the early 1970s, and later the head of The Heritage School in Newnan, GA. She was also one of DeKalb County's first school psychologists. She was a member of Women Alone Together (WAT), a massive patron of the arts & was on the Advisory board at The Nixon Centre. In addition, she was a member of the Newnan-Coweta Historical Society, Coweta Kiwanis Club, and contributed heavily to several charities in the US and abroad. She was a world traveler (quite literally) but loved "her beach" on 30A in Florida the most. Alongside her many achievements, she was an excellent pianist, a talented cook, and a devoted mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

The memorial service is 11 a.m. Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church with The Reverend Winston Arthur officiating. Following the service, the family will greet friends in the church parish hall. Rather than

flowers, the family requests memorial contributions to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 576 Roscoe Rd, Newnan, GA 30263.

Condolences may be expressed online at www.mckoon.com

Survivors include son, Peyton McDorman & wife Annie; granddaughters, Mallory Andrews & husband Joe, Brittany Spence & husband Nick; great-grandchildren, Blakely Andrews, Levi Andrews, Charlie Andrews, Dawson Spence, Kameron Spence, Raelyn Spence, and Fisher Spence.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory (770) 253-4580

Cemetery Details

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory

38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
care@mckoon.com
<http://www.mckoon.com>

Previous Events

Funeral Service

DEC 9. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
576 Roscoe Road
Newnan, GA 30263

Memorial Service

DEC 9. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
576 Roscoe Road
Newnan, GA 30263

Visitation

DEC 9. 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM (ET)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
576 Roscoe Road
Newnan, GA 30263

Tribute Wall

CT

“ Carolyn Curry and Women Alone Together purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Dr. Mary Ben Christiansen.



Carolyn Curry and Women Alone Together - December 06, 2025 at 03:03 PM

CT

“ Carolyn Curry and Women Alone Together planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Mary Ben Christiansen.

Carolyn Curry and Women Alone Together - December 06, 2025 at 03:03 PM

VM

“*Mary Ben McDorman had a very special place in the hearts of the Mayer family. We first met her when she was working as a psychologist with the DeKalb County Learning Disabilities Program where our son, Donald, was a student. She had a wonderful way of relating not only to the students but also to their parents*

Later both Don and I were to follow her to Howard School, where Don was a student and I was a teacher. Through the years,, she was both mentor and friend.

Mary Ben'l ives on in the many lives she touched

Virginia Mayer

When Mary Ben became Head of Howard School, she

Virginia Mayer - December 04, 2025 at 05:43 PM

KC

“*Sending love and prayers for the woman who lit up every room she walked into and brought my grandfather, and our family, so much joy. Her grace, intellect, wit, and kindness will be forever remembered. We will miss her dearly.*

- Kristina Christiansen



Kristina Christiansen - December 03, 2025 at 08:32 AM