



## Shirley "Brenda" Bryant

May 4, 1939 - February 22, 2021

Shirley Brenda Major Bryant passed away peacefully on February 22, 2021, in Newnan, Georgia, surrounded and comforted by her family. Though weak in body at the end, she will forever be strong in spirit to all who knew and loved her.

Brenda, 81 years old, was born in Greenville, South Carolina, fifth in order among ten children born to Frank and Ollie Kellett Major.

Brenda was married to Chester (Chet) C. Bryant of Grantville, Georgia.

Together they raised two children Michele Bryant of Ashburn, Virginia, and (Bo) Chester C. Bryant, Jr. of Washington, D.C.

Over the years, the Bryant family followed Chet's career advancement as he was transferred from city-to-city and state-to-state. In her words: "We made a joint decision as husband and wife that we would go where Chet's career as a federal agent with Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms would take us..." And move they did. These life experiences gave Brenda the opportunity to try many careers. Girl scout leader, cub scout den mother, carpool manager, expert chef, homework and school project director, creative family budget accountant, realtor, decorator, paralegal, volunteer, and office manager are just a few among many. But her passion was interior decorating (and the shopping that went with it). Each move provided more opportunities to develop and apply this talent to almost twenty dwellings the Bryants called home, as they traversed the country. In addition to her many vocations, Brenda enjoyed volunteering for a variety of causes, including charitable

organizations as well as local and federal political campaigns. Ultimately, Brenda worked the longest for GE Capital, from where she retired in 1999, after 20 years of service. Congressman Collins recognized her retirement in the House of Representatives on May 26, 1999. She and Chet returned to Coweta County where they retired together.

Brenda loved the beach and spent many vacations with family and friends at their coastal home in Fort Pierce and subsequently Vero Beach, Florida. There she could frequently be found refusing to surrender the karaoke microphone to family and friends, patiently awaiting their turn. She was known for her no-nonsense approach to life's challenges, eclipsed only by the intensity of her love for her family.

Brenda was preceded in death by her father and mother, as well as her nine siblings. In addition to her husband Chet, she is survived by her two children Michele and Bo, grandson Nicholas Bryant Jackson of Williamsburg, Virginia, as well as a number of nieces, nephews and cousins across the country.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a celebration of Brenda's life will be held for family and friends on a future date, to be determined.

Although she was a great lover of gardening, in lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital where they have established a memorial fund in her name. Contributions can be made at [www.giftfunds.stjude.org/BrendaBryant](http://www.giftfunds.stjude.org/BrendaBryant).

Condolences may be made online at [www.mckoon.com](http://www.mckoon.com).

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory (770) 253-4580.

# Tribute Wall

DT

“ Thinking about you so warmly my dear Aunt (sister). Related by blood yet, reunited as true friends. We did a lot of catching up and what pure joy it was for me, and how it added to my life. I thank God he allowed us time to get to know each other. To share, laugh, cry, sing and toast many a glass of wine. You knew how to add flavor and beauty to every detail and event.

Thank you for caring and loving me. I only wanted more time for us to go dancing. I am at peace knowing you are dancing now and this is just a temporary interruption to our relationship.

Many hugs and deep affection to my Uncle Chet who loved her like a spouse is suppose to love. And you truly loved her. She has truly been so blessed by your love and devotion. For Michele who's heart is so tender and full of love. For Bo who is so caring, devoted ...always there to take the reins for his family. And Nicholas who has worked hard under the guidance of his dear grandparents. This is a drop in the bucket. Prayers for a peaceful heart dear family ❤️🌸🙏

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**Diane Thurman** - March 03, 2021 at 07:22 AM

BB

“ Brenda was the best friend I could have ever asked for. I treasure our 50 years of wonderful memories and all the times we spent together. I miss you Miss B.

Love you, Betsy

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**Betsy Burns** - February 25, 2021 at 08:30 AM

WB

“ I was very sorry to hear about Mrs. Bryant. I knew Mr. Bryant for a number of years before I first met her. I recall how much she talked about her family in our first conversation and being a little surprised. She was clearly very focused on her family and extremely proud. When i thought about it later, I wondered about my initial surprise about her focus on family because Mr. Bryant has always been much the same way. He has always talked about his family. Both simply glowed when talking about one another and their children. Her family is in my thoughts.

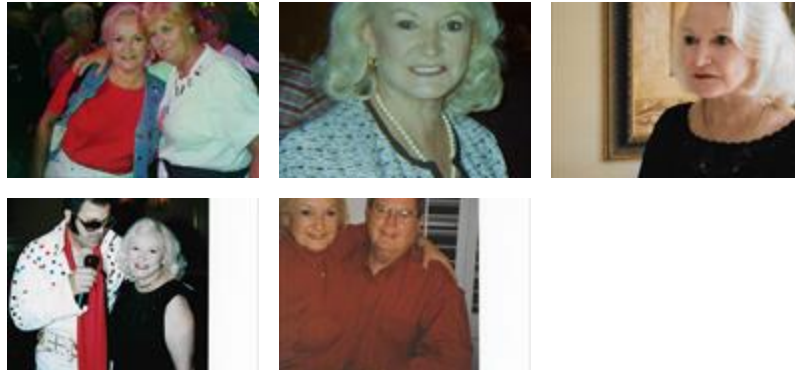
*Wright Banks*

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**Wright Banks** - February 24, 2021 at 12:15 PM

BB

“ 8 files added to the album Brenda Bryant



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**Bo Bryant** - February 23, 2021 at 09:35 PM

 Stacey Hill

*What wonder memories. I am so sorry... cindy and I had no idea of your moms passing. Sending our love to you, Michelle and Chet.*

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**Stacey Hill** - November 01, 2021 at 08:39 PM

PB

“ I knew Brenda - Ms. B - all of my life. She was like a second Mother to me. I think of Ms. B and my Mom going to exercise at Elaine Powers and then hitting the Shoney's breakfast bar to reward themselves for their hard work. I also remember her amazing sense of personal style and the way she made every house a home. Most of all, I remember our talks, many by the pool at OV, about what is important in life.

Mr. B, Michele and Bo - I'm sending you love and good memories of Ms. B. She was quite a lady. I miss her already.

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**Pam Burns** - February 23, 2021 at 03:02 PM

DC

*Brenda was a bright star! She will be remembered for her unmatched warmth and enthusiasm.*

*If there was a party or event to be planned Brenda was the go to person. From the wonderful food, decorations and agenda she made it all work! Although difficult she made it look easy! We will miss you Brenda!*

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**Dan CONROY** - February 24, 2021 at 10:41 AM