



Jayne Byrd 'Cha Cha' Autry

November 30, 1942 - October 3, 2025

Jayne Byrd Autry, born November 30, 1942, passed away peacefully on October 3, 2025, at the age of 82. A life joyfully lived and dedicated to family, faith, and education, she was a blessing to and blessed by everyone she met. Born and raised in the small town of York, Alabama, she attended the University of Montevallo, where her vibrant spirit and leadership were recognized by her peers when she was elected "Gold Leader" for the popular College Night event.

After graduating, Jayne moved to the "big city" of Birmingham, where she met the love of her life, Tom Autry, drawn at first to his red Corvette, and then to his infectious spirit. They were married within a year, on the day of the very first Super Bowl. Ever the spirited couple, they spent their honeymoon evening searching for a hotel with a color television to watch the game in style. Their happy marriage was a testament to their love and lasted until Tom's passing in 2013.

Jayne and Tom were devoted members of Raleigh Avenue Baptist Church, where they made many life-long friends and faithfully served in the youth ministry. Later, they found a new church home at The Church at Brook Hills, where they made another cherished circle of friends.

Throughout her thirty-year career in education, Jayne was a source of care and guidance for generations of students. After beginning as a business teacher at John Carroll Catholic High School, she later transitioned into a role as a counselor, both at John Carroll and then at Pelham High School. Her

commitment extended far beyond the classroom, as she dedicated her time to extracurriculars, serving as the yearbook sponsor, moderator for the high-stepper dance team, and a constant chaperone at student events. In 2004, she retired to fully embrace her most cherished role as a full-time grandmother and dedicated caregiver to her husband. She was known affectionately as "Cha Cha", at first only to her granddaughters, and then to all.

Throughout her life she freely shared smiles, laughter, and compassion with everyone she encountered.

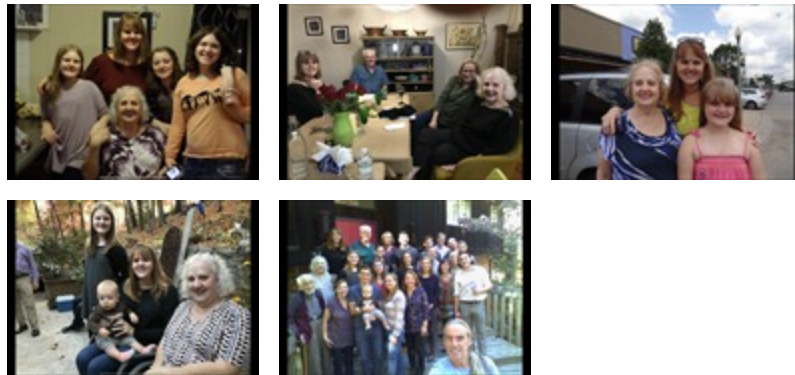
Jayne was preceded in death by her loving husband, Thomas Franklin Autry. She is survived by her two devoted daughters and their spouses: Kimberly Autry Hughes (Wayne Hughes) and Keely Autry Lancaster (Timothy Coughlin), and four granddaughters —Emma Hughes Jenkins (and her husband Cade Jenkins), Bess Louise Hughes, Ella Jayne Lancaster, and Margaret Deason-Coughlin.

A celebration of life will be planned in the coming weeks. Information will be provided at a later date.

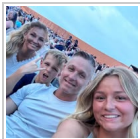
Tribute Wall

DW

“ 5 files added to the album Cha Cha



Dottie Wozniak - November 03, 2025 at 12:16 PM



“ This precious woman has gone to be with her Lord. She was so instrumental in my teenage life as a counselor at Pelham High School. She was a guest at my wedding and both baby showers. She was one of the first people in my life to make me believe I had worth and value and was worthy of love. She made me believe in myself and ability to accomplish anything I dreamed. Her laugh made my days better and her joy was contagious! She celebrated every single win in my life well into adulthood like it was the winning touchdown in a game. I am who I am today because of this Godly, joyful woman and although I know the world is less beautiful without her, i am overjoyed that she's reunited with Tom and with her Savior.

-Misty Blue Phillips

Misty Phillips - October 07, 2025 at 08:31 AM

AL

“ Mrs. Autry was the sweetest person. I ever met she was also my guidance counselor. At school I loved talking to her. She was the best. She will be dearly missed.

Ann Lents - October 06, 2025 at 10:22 PM

SD

“ Jayne was a dear friend when we were students at Montevallo. We shared lots of time together...even double dated a few times. Her laughter and big smiles will live long after her death. My condolences to her daughters and grandchildren.

Susu Draper - October 06, 2025 at 08:51 PM

CW

“ Though I never had the pleasure of meeting this wonderful lady, I did have the honor of working with her beloved daughter, Keely. Keely embodied the kindness and character of her mother. She was a blessing to me and I knew that she had been raised in a caring and excellent home. Praying for Keely and her family.

Carol White - October 06, 2025 at 03:40 PM

MP

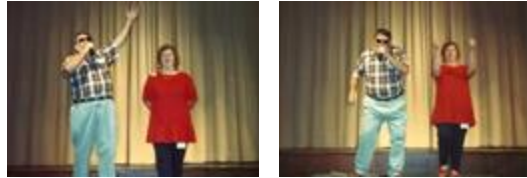
“ 1 file added to the album Jayne



Mary Beth Parker - October 06, 2025 at 01:32 PM

MP

“ 2 files added to the album Jayne



Mary Beth Parker - October 06, 2025 at 01:29 PM

ET

“ She taught me at John Carroll High School (Class of 1980). She was a mentor and friend. May her memory be eternal.

Ellen Tipton

Ellen Tipton - October 05, 2025 at 07:30 PM