



Sonja Josephine Burke

February 11, 1938 - January 21, 2019

Funeral Service for Sonja Josephine Burke, age 80, of Cullman, will be at 2:00 PM on Friday, January 25, 2019, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Rev. Ray Lathem officiating; interment in Cullman Heritage Cemetery.

Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Sonja Josephine Burke, Mrs B., aka Big Mama, passed away on Monday January 21, 2019. She was born in Samantha, Alabama, to Laura and Gorman Lunceford on February 11, 1938. She was preceded in death by her parents, one brother, and devoted husband of 58 years, Robert Burke, Jr.

Sonja loved to travel, taking as many of her family with her as she could. Some of her favorite things included spoiling her eight grandchildren that affectionately called her Big Mama; visiting her sister in Colorado; elephants; rocks; and sunsets. She loved her customers and the many friends that visited the flower shop, and she always made sure they left with a rose. She loved being with family and enjoyed a full life. She worked at Cullman Medical Center as an x-ray technician, ultrasound sonographer, and worked in nuclear medicine. In 1983 she retired from the medical field to follow her dream of opening Burke's Florist, where she set a loving example of giving, faith and hard work.

She leaves a huge hole in the heart of those that loved her and will be greatly missed by her three children, Bob Burke, April (Eugene) Kimbril, and Jo (Greg) Keeton; sister, Lana (Donnie) Lunceford; grandchildren, Matthew Kimbril, Kevin (Jessica) Kimbril, Blake Kimbril, Rachel Keeton, Luke Keeton, Noah Keeton, Brian (Katie) Keeton, and Clint (Rosanna) Keeton; five great-grandchildren; and her special flower shop delivery dog, Rufus.

Visitation will be from 6:00-8:00 PM on Thursday, January 24, 2019, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Cullman Heritage Cemetery

255 County Road 1435
Cullman, AL 35058

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 24. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Cullman Heritage Funeral Home
255 County Road 1435
Cullman, AL 35058
(256) 734-0208
info@cullmanheritage.com
<https://www.cullmanheritage.com>

Service

JAN 25. 2:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



Jennifer
Graham

“ Loved spending time with Big Momma at the shop! One of the very best parts of my time in Alabama! Being a part of the flower shop and family for all those years was very special! She will always hold a special place in my heart! Now you are home with Big Daddy! Love ya momma!

Jennifer Graham - January 25, 2019 at 09:14 PM

Sheila
Miano

“ From the time she let me come in and see the cat when I was in elementary school to spending almost every day after school for 8 years and 20 years after I moved away, she was like my own big mama. I will miss her very much. Love you guys. Prayers for the family. Hugs and kisses. ❤️ the Miano's

Sheila Miano - January 25, 2019 at 09:07 PM



“ Bob, April, and Jo I'm so sorry for your loss. I remember being younger and just being part of the flower business circle. I know she impacted many lives. My love and prayers from my family will be with your family as you grieve.

Karla Young - January 24, 2019 at 08:34 PM

PH

“ Sonja, such a good friend . We enjoyed everytime we came by. Jordon loved the She was such a loving person. Love the time we went to your house to go swimming. All of the kids always had to go back for a Rose from Ms Sonja. You will be truly missed. I will be praying for Bobby April and joe. love you all . Hamilton family

pat hamilton - January 24, 2019 at 12:53 PM

EC

“ *I'm going to miss you so much I will help April and jo*

Emylee cooper - January 24, 2019 at 10:11 AM

KM

“ *Precious memories of this beautiful lady. I met her, and became her friend, over 30 years ago. Every time I went into her flower shop she always made sure I had a rose in my hand before I walked out the door. We shared many laughs and tears together. She will always have a special place in my heart. This woman surely had a heart of gold. I love you Bob, April and Jo.*

Kim Merritt - January 24, 2019 at 09:27 AM

KM

“ *Kim Merritt lit a candle in memory of Sonja Josephine Burke*



Kim Merritt - January 24, 2019 at 09:23 AM

AC

“ *Alena Cook lit a candle in memory of Sonja Josephine Burke*



alena cook - January 24, 2019 at 08:43 AM

AC

“ *Sonja was always my second Mom, and a wonderful friend! She was always there for me with such great advice. When i started working for her she would take me into her “room” & patiently show me how to do all kinds of extrodinary things ! She had so much patience. We never did get to go out west like we talked about all the time .She was going to show me all the phenomenal places that I have never seen . She did get to go for a ride with me in my convertible & we had a BALL! She shared with me all the fantastic things that she had done in her life which I will never forget She was a wonderful person & I will truly miss her but I know that she & Robert are now planning one of their next adventures together!* ”

alena cook - January 24, 2019 at 08:43 AM


Jennifer
Peterson

“ *Jennifer Peterson lit a candle in memory of Sonja Josephine Burke* ”



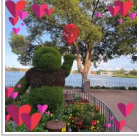
Jennifer Peterson - January 24, 2019 at 07:01 AM

SB

“ *So very sorry for your loss. Many many memories of this wonderful lady. Godspeed Sonja and prayers for you all.* ”



sandi bockhold - January 24, 2019 at 01:20 AM



“ *She was always so kind when I called from California. God bless her all who will miss her.*



Lisa Wong - January 23, 2019 at 10:44 PM

SB

“ *Only Met Sonja A Few Times , But She Was Funny , Sweet , Always Smiling Even When She Was Not Feeling Well , I Will Miss Her* 🙏🙏🙏🙏

Sharon Bellm - January 23, 2019 at 10:36 PM

AP

“ *April lit a candle in memory of Sonja Josephine Burke*



april - January 23, 2019 at 10:26 PM

MP

“ *Mrs Burke was an amazing woman.I met her years ago and every Valentine's she would make sure I had flowers for that special day..I would make her a birthday cake and she just loved to talk...She was and always will be an amazing woman*

Misty Pearson - January 23, 2019 at 10:21 PM

FC

“ *Ms Sonja was always so sweet and made my wedding the best ever (8/24/90). Loved how she always gave me and everyone a rose when we would pay on our account. So in return, “Only a Rose will do”. Love to all!*



felicia carden - January 23, 2019 at 10:19 PM