



Mary Aileen Cantrell Rutherford

October 28, 1927 - March 18, 2021

To watch the service LIVE, please click here. (<https://www.oneroomstreaming.com/view/authorize.php?k=1616271341106842>)

Mary Aileen Cantrell Rutherford, 93, of Bristol, Tennessee passed away March 18, 2021 at NHC Rehabilitation of Bristol. She was born October 28, 1927 in Bristol, Tennessee to the late Jess and Minnie Grubb Cantrell. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Leo H. Rutherford; sisters Myrtle Butterworth; Ada Black; and a brother, Jerry Cantrell and son-in-law, Michael Akers.

Aileen and Leo were married November 18, 1950. She graduated from Holston Valley High School in 1946. Aileen began working at age 16 at Woolworths and later worked at the Thread Mill. She also worked at Big Jack, as well as Monroe Calculating. As they started to build their family, Aileen began her journey as a homemaker. In her earlier years you could find Aileen in her garden or cultivating her beautiful flower gardens. She loved traveling and spending time with her family while caring for others. She truly was a servant of God. She always put others before herself.

Aileen was a member of Rosemont Presbyterian Church where she loved visiting her friends and rejoicing with them. She was a charter life member of the Bristol Life Saving Crew and a life member of the Auxiliary of Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads. Aileen will always be remembered for her strong faith in God, her love for her family and her astounding care and compassion for others.

Survivors include her daughter, Barbara Akers of Bristol, TN; a son Herschel Rutherford (Linda) of Knoxville, TN; special great-niece, Joan Williams and special nephew, Noble Cantrell. She also leaves behind many special friends and family.

The family will receive friends from 12:30 p.m. until 1:45 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at Oakley-Cook Funeral Home in Bristol, Tenn. A funeral service will follow at 2:00 p.m. with Rev. Laura Plaster and Rev. Scott Spence officiating. To watch the service via

livestream, please click here. (<https://www.oneroomstreaming.com/view/authorise.php?k=1616271341106842>) The committal and interment will be held after the service at Glenwood Cemetery in Bristol, Tenn. Pallbearers will include Bill Bowman, Mike Coches, Bryan Gentry, Alex Holdway, Tim Holdway, Allen Pepler, and David Wright. Honorary pallbearers will be members of the Bristol Lifesaving Crew and Auxiliary, Dr. Thomas Green, Jr. and staff, Dr. Tom Townsend and pharmacy staff of CVS on West State Street.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to Bristol Lifesaving Crew, 1601 Euclid Avenue Bristol, VA 24201 or Grandfather Home for Children, 158 Grandfather Home Dr. Banner Elk, NC 28604 or Mclver Presbyterian Church 1900 Euclid Avenue Bristol, VA 24201

Arrangements especially for Ms. Aileen and her family have been made through Oakley-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory.

Cemetery Details

Glenwood Cemetery

839 Bluff City Hwy
Bristol, TN 37620

Previous Events

Receiving of Friends

MAR 23. 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM (ET)

Oakley-Cook Funeral Home and Crematory
2223 Volunteer Parkway
Bristol, TN 37620

Funeral Service

MAR 23. 2:00 PM (ET)

Oakley-Cook Funeral Home and Crematory
2223 Volunteer Parkway
Bristol, TN 37620

Committal Service and Interment

MAR 23 (ET)

Glenwood Cemetery
839 Bluff City Hwy
Bristol, TN 37620

Tribute Wall

DO

“ Dear Barbara,
So very sorry for the loss of your sweet Mom. My heart goes out to you. Prayers to give you strength during this time and the days to come ❤️❤️❤️



Donna Thomas Ostermeyer - March 26, 2021 at 09:28 PM

JB

“ Herschel,
Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. We are so sorry for the loss of your beautiful Mother.
Much love,
Jack and Karen

Jack Ballew - March 26, 2021 at 02:30 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Aileen's Life Tribute Video



Oakley-Cook Funeral Home - March 23, 2021 at 04:42 PM

NS

“ She was a wonderful person and marvelous friend. Her and Leo were great friends of my parents. I used to enjoy listening to them and my parents when they were together. Aileen and Leo were strong proponents of the Bristol Lifesaving Crew. She will be missed but leaves behind many, many wonderful memories. Our loss is Heaven's gain.

Ned Stedman - March 22, 2021 at 08:55 PM

GW

“ Barbara,
 We are sorry for your loss but it's also great to know that her and Leo are holding hands and with Mike right now. Aileen was honestly one of a kind. We agree that we never met a more likable person and anyone who knew her instantly loved her. She will be another reason to look forward to Heaven. You are in our prayers. The Life Saving Crew lost another of the people that we looked up to—another hero.

Gary & Tina Whiteaker - March 22, 2021 at 01:35 AM

SR

“ From my earliest memories, Aileen was aunt to me. Always soft spoken and gentle, my memories are fond and many. When my parents needed someone to watch over me, I spent many wonderful times in her presence while growing up. Leo was my daddy's youngest brother, and one of his brothers that he spent time with frequently.

To Herschel and Barbara, my cousins, I know you have memories that cannot be replaced, nor should they be. You were blessed to have such kind and responsive parents. Words cannot convey what needs to be said. But one thing I am completely confident of is that your mother lives on, not just in your and my memories, but in a life that cannot be taken from her. She and your daddy are together again. Someday we will be with them too. While we mourn, we need not fear. The One who created all is still at work, both with those of us who remain for the moment, as well as those who know life anew. The affirmation of loss and joy rarely belong together, but is wholly appropriate as we think of your mother. So, tonight, Rest In Peace, for your mother is doing likewise.

Steve Rutherford - March 20, 2021 at 07:52 PM

SS

“ Barbara and family, you are in my thoughts and prayers at this very sad time. Aileen was a very sweet and pretty lady. She always greeted me with her pretty smile. I hope your special memories give you peace and comfort.

Shirley Salyer - March 20, 2021 at 06:55 PM

SS

“ Shirley Salyer lit a candle in memory of Mary Aileen Cantrell Rutherford



Shirley Salyer - March 20, 2021 at 06:47 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Aileen Cantrell Rutherford.* ”



March 20, 2021 at 01:06 PM