



Shirley Smith Hood

December 6, 1937 - April 13, 2024

Shirley Smith Hood, 86, of Lakeland, beloved wife, mother, sister-in-law, grandmother, and friend, passed into the loving arms of her Lord Jesus Christ on Saturday, April 13, 2024.

Shirley was born on December 6, 1937, in Orlando, Florida to the late Hilda Mae Burt and John O'Neal Smith. She grew up in an old downtown Orlando neighborhood with brick streets and Live Oak canopies, with most of her family vacations spent visiting relatives in Georgia. Shirley was a cheerleader for the Boone Braves when she met the love of her life, Charles Clifford Hood of Orlando, who was playing on the Apopka Blue Darter basketball team. Shirley attended the University of Florida and majored in Education. After dating for five years, Shirley and Cliff were married on December 30, 1957. Upon Cliff's graduation from UF in June of 1958, the newlyweds moved to Sault Ste. Marie Michigan, where Cliff was stationed in the Air Force, and began their life together.

While living in Sault Ste. Marie, the young Hood family welcomed the addition of sons John Alton and Tracy Alan. Upon Cliff's discharge from the Air Force in 1962, the family moved back to Florida, first to Deland, then to Lakeland. While raising her young and rambunctious boys, Shirley also finished her undergraduate Education degree through classes at USF, earning her teaching certificate in 1971.

Shirley lived 62 happy years in Lakeland, where she and Cliff made many lifelong friends. They were active members at Gibsonia Baptist Church, then

First Baptist Church, teaching Sunday School classes, leading the young married groups, and serving in various other roles their church. Over the years, they joined groups to play Bridge, Bunco, Farkle and virtually anything that allowed talking and playing at the same time. The self-proclaimed “Dirty Dozen” was an especially close group of twelve couples, whose passions were food and fellowship, otherwise known as eating and talking! For many years, Shirley and Cliff were fortunate to spend their summers in Hayesville, where they attended McConnell Baptist Church in Hiawassee, GA and made many close friends.

Shirley was an only child in a huge family of aunts, uncles and cousins, and loved to confuse us all explaining how everyone was related. She had a wonderful sense of humor, and always found the best in everyone and everything. She thought first of others and never of herself—she was a true angel on earth. Shirley enjoyed spending quality time with her family and friends, and brought the joy of life to everyone around her. Most of all, she enjoyed being together with Cliff, her loving husband and soul mate, no matter what they were doing.

Shirley is survived by her son, Tracy (Barbara) Hood of Tampa, FL; and her granddaughters Katie and Ellie. She was predeceased by her husband, Charles Clifford Hood and her son, John Hood.

A private family interment is planned. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Shirley’s memory to McConnell Baptist Church, PO Box 235, Hiawassee, GA .

Tribute Wall

PH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall

Phyllis Hood - April 23, 2024 at 03:25 PM

BH

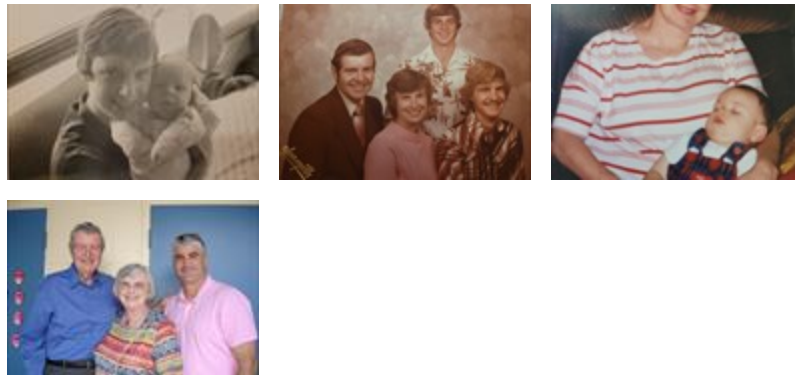
“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Barbara Hood - April 22, 2024 at 07:54 AM

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“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Barbara Hood - April 22, 2024 at 07:52 AM



“ Dearest cuson you and Cliff will be dearly missed. We take comfort in knowing you are in the place of no pain no hunger with our Lord and Savior.

James Claypool - April 21, 2024 at 07:43 PM

“ Shirley was the best sister-in-law anyone could have - she was caring, kind, fun, creative, gracious and loving. I shared many good times with Cliff and Shirley over the years, especially after I retired in 2008. Before I retired we traveled to Hawaii together for a week and then they took a week cruise around the islands while I flew home to go back to work. We also took a 2 week vacation together to Alaska - one week on land and one week on a cruise. You will see by the pictures I posted, the Alaska trip had gorgeous views. The best trip we took together was a 3 week trip to the Rockies. I pulled a travel trailer and they had a motor home. We used my car for sightseeing. We started our trip at the tourist attractions at Mt. Rushmore and Crazy Horse before we got to the National Parks. After those beautiful places we stayed in the 4 Rockies national parks - Glacier, Yellowstone, Grand Tetons and Rocky Mountain Park. Shirley made friends so easily and she/we talked to other campers everywhere we went. The landscapes and wildlife were more than I ever imagined - we laughed and shared good times at all of them. Shirley was known by everyone for taking pictures to commemorate all gatherings and she took a lot of pictures on the trip to fill her annual photo albums she started the first year she and Cliff were married. She filled a specially made bookcase with 5 shelves of picture albums that were frequently pulled out over the years to reminisce about past gatherings. In addition to her picture taking, Shirley loved gardening and, to my surprise, pulling weeds!!! She could frequently be found on her hands and knees trying to get every weed out of the garden or grass. Lastly, Shirley loved to entertain and participate in her frequent card playing outings with her friends. Her entertaining skills were on full display when she and Cliff bought a park model in Hayesville, NC which they stayed in during the summer season. Their unit was one of the main gathering place for the residents in Sundowner RV Village. My travel trailer was next door to their park model and Shirley cooked most of my meals when I would visit for 2 and 3 weeks at a time. Many evenings she would be entertaining a group of residents for food and fun. I miss Cliff and Shirley but know they are together and that's where they wanted to be.

Phyllis Hood - April 21, 2024 at 07:28 PM

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“ 21 files added to the tribute wall



Phyllis Hood - April 21, 2024 at 07:02 PM

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“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Barbara Hood - April 21, 2024 at 01:51 PM

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“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Barbara Hood - April 21, 2024 at 01:34 PM

KR

“ Shirley will be missed by all who knew her. A beautiful lady in a wonderful family.

karen rossi - April 20, 2024 at 02:28 PM

ML

shared many good times.Lots of laughter and delicious food with Shirley and Cliff. She was a great game player and I enjoyed our get togethers for playing Rumi Cube and Farkle..I'm sure she's rounding up some folks in heaven to share fun with...I know she will be missed here, but she's with her beloved Cliff..and that's comforting.

Marjorie Logan - April 21, 2024 at 09:30 AM

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“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Phyllis Hood - April 20, 2024 at 09:44 AM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Phyllis Hood - April 20, 2024 at 09:28 AM

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“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Phyllis Hood - April 20, 2024 at 09:15 AM

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“ 24 files added to the tribute wall



Barbara Hood - April 20, 2024 at 07:57 AM