



Shirley Brackett Tolbert

January 10, 1946 - June 26, 2022

Shirley Brackett Tolbert, 76, Alpharetta and formerly of Marietta died Sunday June 26th at her home.

A Celebration of Life was held 12:00 PM Thursday June 30th at the Cobb Terrace in the Strand Theater on the Square in Marietta.

Shirley was born and raised on Campbell Hill Street and attended Marietta City Schools and graduated from Marietta High School. She and her mother and brothers and sister were well known in Marietta.

Shirley was a very talented hairdresser working most of her life in several area shops and going on to owning and operating her own shops for many years.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents, James Newell Brackett and her mother, Blanche Odom Brackett and her daughter, Leslie Rae Wallace.

Survivors include, husband Jack W. Tolbert; 3 daughters, Tracey Wallace Hext (Lance), Suzanne Wallace Grover (Kim), Leighanne Wallace Littrell (Brian) and Shay Tolbert (Nancy). Grandchildren, Madison, Maxwell, Morgann, Ryan, Erin, Avery, Reece, Baylee and six great grandchildren. Several nieces, nephew, cousins and many friends.

Notes from the grandchildren:

On June 26th, we said goodbye to our beloved grandmother, Shirley "Gee" Brackett Tolbert. Her passing has left our world feeling a little emptier, but her legacy lives on with each of us, and in the stories and memories we share with each other. To honor her, our family would like to share some of those memories as told by us, her grandchildren, each of whom admired her greatly.

I, myself, have hundreds of stories in which the protagonist is Gee, because she was everything to me. I got to live with her for the first few years of my life, and made my first memories in her home. When I didn't live with her full time, I spent weekends with her, and cried when I had to leave. She sang with me, taught me to meditate, and took me to church. When we went to dinner everyone knew Gee; she taught me how to be a social butterfly just like her. She encouraged my performances on every fireplace and brick wall

that I made into a stage, even when “Bah Bah Black Sheep” was the only song on my set list. She was Heidi, Clara, and every other character I asked her to play when we went to the mountains; she was the best scene partner I’ve ever had. She was my parent, my grandparent, and she told every story about me that I know. She was my dearest friend and my favorite person.

The lessons I learned from Gee are innumerable. She exemplified kindness over niceness. She knew how to make everything beautiful, and she showed me how to find value in the unexpected. She was strong, independent, driven, and raised strong women who have raised their children to be strong. I am forever grateful for years of adventures and multitudes of lessons; for old movies and new experiences, for her encouragement and enthusiasm, her wisdom and friendship, and her ability to make me feel like the most special person in the world, while being the most special person in my world. She was my safest place, my unconditional love, and my favorite story, and I love her more than I can say.

- Madison Allen

Gee was unlike anyone I've ever known. She had a lust for life that showed in everything she did. I remember her teaching me how to gamble. We played dozens of hands of blackjack and poker, and she was so excited to be sharing her knowledge with me. I'll never forget betting stacks of change against Gee, and learning just what it meant to gamble properly. Even something as simple as cooking breakfast for me when I was a child she did with exuberance. I can remember clear as day sitting on a barstool opposite her while she cooked eggs, bacon, and toast for me. She is who first sparked my love of cooking, when she taught me how to scramble eggs with a fork, and peel potatoes without wasting any. Gee is, and always will be, an integral part of who I am, a cornerstone of my life. I can only hope to conduct myself with the same grace and vibrance as she did.

- Maxwell Hext

It's hard to find words to describe a woman who meant so much to everyone who crossed her path. Gee was so many people's “person”. While she will absolutely be remembered for her storytelling and ability to monologue for hours without taking a breath, she will also be remembered for being the best listener, kindest soul, and the epitome of fun. She taught us all how to love fiercely and embody compassion. She instilled confidence and creativity in us. She was the light of our family that will forever glow through us and everyone she touched.

- Morgann Hext

Gee always has, and forever will, inspire me. She inspired everyone she'd ever met to live their life to the fullest potential and find the pleasure in everything you do. Gee was the

hardest working, most stubborn, competitively loving person you will ever meet. Every day I think back on working in the Beauty Shop together and soaking in the stories, friendship, and several cans of hairspray that filled the room. I had the honor of watching Gee take care of her friends and family with the most love and vigor you will ever see. Gee taught me to be compassionate, ambitious, and most of all patient. She always told us never to pray for patience. I have the fondest memories in her house on Oland Circle making popcorn in her green colander, listening to Jonny Cash on the porch, and our 7-Up ice cream floats. Gee would take Reece, Baylee, and me to Marietta Square almost every week to play on the train, visit Eddy's Trick Shop, and go to the ice cream store with our favorite train on the ceiling. Everything Gee did was out of love for the people around her and the memories we all hold so close to our hearts.

- Avery Grover

Gee was a loving mother, grandmother, and friend. There was nothing better than the stories she would tell and how every word made you feel like you were there. She showered everyone she knew with love and affection. The impact she had on everyone's life was enormous and she will never be forgotten. If I weren't for Gee we would never have half the inside jokes we have in our family. "Y'all get up!"

- Baylee Littrell

Gee: the kindest soul to ever grace this earth, the brightest smile ever seen, the most loving woman you'll ever meet. She had a way with people; she could make anyone feel special, important, loved, and nurtured, no matter who they were. You could spend 5 minutes with her, or 5 years and that feeling would never change. Nothing made me feel more at home than seeing her smile as she made you a meal, knowing damn well you can't interrupt her stories with food in your mouth. The lessons she taught were always sprinkled in, and whether subtle or loud, they always stuck with you. I never met someone who didn't love her; it was nearly impossible not to, She brought so much into this world and everyone who was lucky enough to meet her is blessed. I'll never forget her sweet voice, her warm embrace, her healing kisses. You will always be loved Gee, and never forgotten. Thank you for making our lives special.

- Reece Grover

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN **30**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Cobb Terrace located on the fourth floor of the Strand Theater
South Park Square
Marietta, GA 30060

Tribute Wall

CC

“ So sorry to hear of Shirley’s passing. Her and my Mom(JoAnne Cody) were long time friends. When I was in hs Shirley cut my hair. I loved to listen to her stories and jokes as I waited my turn. I also enjoyed seeing the kids run around the shop and remember how beautiful they all were. I had not seen Shirley for many years but have such fond memories of her. I am sorry that I missed her service and am sure it was a great testament of her life and loving nature.

Charlie Coles - July 02 at 12:39 PM

SL

I loved Shirley like she was my aunt. I was a shampoo girl for her one summer and I soaked up as much from her as I could. She spoke to me as an equal and I so respected her for that. I’ve relayed so many of the stories from that summer to my own children as they were growing up. I had the pleasure of getting together with her a few years ago along with Debbie Smith Bowden, Wendy Merritt Voyles right there on the Marietta Square drinking Bubble Tea and getting to visit with some of my dearest friends. They’ve always made me feel like family and I’ll forever have some of my fondest memories from working one summer with her in 1976. May PEACE be with you Shirley, I’m so proud to have been able to call you my friend.

Sharon Fambrough Lankford - July 25 at 04:55 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Shirley Brackett Tolbert.



June 30 at 08:23 PM

SS

“ One of my favorite memories of Shirley was my sister my niece and myself were visiting from Kentucky. Shirley was trying to get Baylee and Madison to sing together. They both were shy to begin with then the performance began! Wow how time flies ♥♥ Love from Kentucky,
Susie, Rick, Danielle&Dave ♥



Susie Schroader - June 30 at 10:41 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Shirley Brackett Tolbert.



June 30 at 10:37 AM

DN

“ DANG NAILS purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Shirley Brackett Tolbert.



DANG NAILS - June 29 at 09:28 PM

JG

“ All of Heaven is rejoicing as they are all welcoming home one of God's beloved children!

To those left behind, I pray these words bring you comfort, for she will be sorely missed.

Treasured Memories by Janice Brackett Garner

All of our treasured memories are something no one can ever take away

They are in our hearts and souls and they will there forever stay

And when the time arrives we are feeling alone or sad we can recall a treasured memory of a special time we've had

Our sadness will become gladness and our loneliness will be no more

As we return our treasured memory once again to our heart to store.

We will recall these treasured memories again and again like the ocean tide

We will smile as we remember and feel safe and warm inside.

And even though at times we may feel miles apart, we will never be alone because of the treasured memories in our hearts.

I wrote this when Daddy passed away because I was missing him so.

My love and prayers.

Janice Garner - June 29 at 03:04 PM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Shirley Brackett Tolbert.*



June 29 at 11:56 AM



“ *Jo, Brielle, & Caity- JMIGS PR purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Shirley Brackett Tolbert.*



Jo, Brielle, & Caity- JMIGS PR - June 29 at 11:40 AM



“ *Prayers for family and friends Shirley was a shining star here on earth and now in heaven. The memories will live on in every person who's life she touched in her time here. God bless* ❤️



Kathy Thurman - June 29 at 10:38 AM



“ *So sorry for your pain. May God comfort you and your family, during this difficult time and all the days ahead. With prayers and much love. Lisa*



Lisa Gillum-Wells - June 29 at 09:59 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Shirley Brackett Tolbert.*



June 29 at 09:21 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Shirley Brackett Tolbert.*



June 29 at 09:04 AM

AB

“ *Andrew Philip and Shirley Beaman purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Shirley Brackett Tolbert.*



Andrew Philip and Shirley Beaman - June 28 at 11:58 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Shirley Brackett Tolbert.*



June 28 at 09:00 PM

SA

“ *Stephanie Cloutier and Amber America purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Shirley Brackett Tolbert.*



Stephanie Cloutier and Amber America - June 28 at 07:15 PM

JS

“ *Sending love, prayers, and a big hug to the family of Gee. She was a light to so many! Praying for you all in the days ahead. Love to all -*



Jamie Salmon - June 28 at 05:13 PM

BB

Shirley was one of the first friends my mama had when we moved to Marietta in the late '60s. We went to her little shop in an old house where she would hold court full of laughter with the ladies she was working on and the many ladies waiting and her girls playing. When I got old enough I would sometimes go out with them, Gwen Childs Few and others, and I would have the best time. In 1981, she did my hair for my wedding as a present. She came to my mothers 75th birthday party at the American Legion and her funeral. The last time I saw her was the day she retired, and it was still full of laughter. She and my mom, Cody (as Shirley called her) had so many great times full of craziness she was dubbed "Crazy Shirley" by my mother! Our Crazy Shirley had a heart of gold. RIP

Barbara Coles Biddle

Barbara Coles Biddle - July 03 at 05:18 PM