



Norma Bernice McKeever

May 5, 1924 - April 21, 2021

Big Stone Gap, Virginia

Norma Bernice (Niece) McKeever, went home to be with her Lord and Savior peacefully on Wednesday, April. 21, 2021 at the Laurels in Wise Virginia.

Bernice was born May 5, 1924 in Bonny Blue Section of Lee County, to the late Jess and Eura Williams. Bernice's life epitomized kindness, generosity, and service to others. She was a devoted member of the Big Stone Gap Heritage Church of God. She loved her God and her church. She served as a Sunday School teacher, choir member, and leader of countless church activities. She volunteered at the John Fox Jr. House, and was a "Pink Lady" at Lonesome Pine Community Hospital for many years.

At the age of seventeen Bernice began serving others, by traveling alone on a bus and train to California to be with her new husband, Gip. He was in the Navy. During this time while in California Bernice volunteered as part of the World War II effort, as an original, "Rosie the Riveter" making parachutes, and installing rivets in the cock-pits of B52 Bombers.

Following the war, Bernice and Gip eventually returned to Big Stone Gap. Gip worked in the coal mines, & Bernice found her career in the Westmoreland Accounting department. Years later when she retired, she continued to serve

her friends and co-workers as chairman of the Westmoreland Veterans Association.

Throughout her life Bernice cherished being with her family. Family members never left her home without her offering food, gifts, or support of some kind. She delighted in hosting dinners and holiday get togethers.

Bernice really enjoyed spending time with her son, Stephen, and her grandson, Jesse. At the age of 87, Bernice first experienced the joy of riding a motorcycle with her beloved son. She enjoyed sharing her memories of this experience; exclaiming, that she had never before experienced such beauty and freedom.

She was preceded in death by; her beloved husband, Marion (Gip) McKeever; her precious only child, Stephen McKeever; her parents; her step mother, Belle Williams; two sisters, Edith Wyatt and Irene Myers; and two brothers, Goffrey Williams and Rufus Williams.

Bernice is survived by her daughter-in-law, Cynthia McKeever; grandson, Jesse McKeever and wife Veleecia, of Oklahoma City, OK.; great granddaughter Nailah, and a new great granddaughter, Aurora Jo; numerous nieces, nephews, close friends, neighbors and relatives.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to the Laurels' staff, also Hospice and Palliative Care of Virginia. A sincere thanks and appreciation are also extended to; Andrea Bull, Calverne "Curly" Lyke and Margie Lyke, Butch Lyke and Kay Sturgill, and Rev. Ronnie Mutter, for all their care and support throughout the years.

The family will receive friends on Monday, April 26, 2021., from 11:30am-1:00p.m at Heritage Church of God (775 Wood Ave E, Big Stone Gap, VA) for

the visitation. Funeral Services will be conducted following with Pastor Ronnie Mutter officiating. Burial will follow in Powell Valley Memorial Gardens.

Family and friends will serve as pallbearers.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Heritage Church of God at (775 Wood Ave E, Big Stone Gap, VA 24219)

A memorial video has been created for family and friends at:

<https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/5XQWD8PHLL4WNJT4>

You may go online to view the obituary, sign the guest registry, or leave the family a condolence at www.holdingfuneralhome.com

Holding Funeral Home is honored to be serving the family of Ms. McKeever.

Cemetery Details

Powell Valley Memorial Gardens

5650 Powell Valley Road
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219
(276) 679-0030

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 26. 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Heritage Church of God
775 Wood Avenue, E.
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

Service

APR 26. 1:00 PM (ET)

Heritage Church of God
775 Wood Avenue, E.
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

Burial

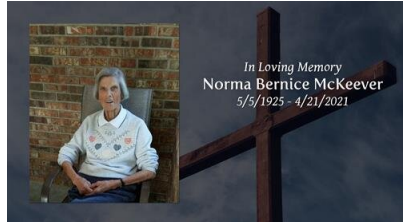
APR 26. 2:00 PM (ET)

Powell Valley Memorial Gardens
5650 Powell Valley Road
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219
(276) 679-0030

Tribute Wall



“ *Holding Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Norma Bernice McKeever*



Holding Funeral Home, Inc. - April 24, 2021 at 02:43 PM

SH

*I loved you more than you'll ever know
Fly high my sweet friend*

Sharon - April 26, 2021 at 10:54 AM



“ *Norma Bernice McKeever*

October 07, 2023 at 10:50 AM

BJ

“ *So sorry to hear Bernice has passed. She was a very sweet lady. I considered her a friend. We lost touch after I left Westmoreland. She had a long and happy life.*

Brenda Cook Jones - May 06, 2021 at 08:12 PM

LG

“ *Lois Garrison lit a candle in memory of Norma Bernice McKeever*



Lois Garrison - April 25, 2021 at 05:31 PM

MO

“ *I remember Bernice fondly from our years at Westmoreland. Always kind, always thoughtful, always helpful. I extend prayers and condolences for her and her family*

Mike Odle - April 25, 2021 at 09:20 AM

JF

“ *Bernice was true Christian lady. A household name around Big Stone Gap, and a great American. God granted her a long and gifted life. I was fortunate to have known her at Westmoreland , Church, and she worked for our family business a while after retiring at Westmoreland. I cherish those memories very much, and extend my prayers and condolences to the family. A great all around lady.*
Jerry Fraley

Jerry Fraley - April 24, 2021 at 12:55 PM

PB

“ *To the family: I'm so sorry for your loss. I was privileged to know and work with Bernice through the hospital auxiliary. She was so kind and always helpful. Sending warm thoughts and heartfelt prayers for peace and comfort.*

Pat Bowden - April 23, 2021 at 11:43 PM

SM

“ *Shelby Meade lit a candle in memory of Norma Bernice McKeever*



shelby meade - April 23, 2021 at 12:47 PM

JH

“ *I have so many memories of Bernice, from our years at Westmoreland Coal to the times we planned meetings for Stonega Veterans. She looked forward to meeting at her house and treated us like family. She always spoke so lovingly of Steve, Cindy, and the handsomest sailor in the Navy, her grandson Jessee. My thoughts and prayers go out to Cindy and Jessee as you grieve yet another loved one gone. Bernice was the very essence of love!* 🙏💕🌸

Judy Hall - April 23, 2021 at 10:58 AM

AB

“ *Abbie Blair lit a candle in memory of Norma Bernice McKeever*



Abbie Blair - April 22, 2021 at 11:04 PM

TA

“ *Tinker Anderson lit a candle in memory of Norma Bernice McKeever*



Tinker Anderson - April 22, 2021 at 12:55 PM

SF

“ *Shirley Fisher lit a candle in memory of Norma Bernice McKeever*



Shirley Fisher - April 22, 2021 at 10:50 AM

SF

“ *Susie Fig lit a candle in memory of Norma Bernice McKeever*



Susie Fig - April 21, 2021 at 10:55 PM