



Joy Marie (May) Bernshausen

December 15, 1929 - January 6, 2021

To watch a livestream of the service, please click on the link below.

<https://www.oneromestreaming.com/view/authorise.php?k=161016188094407>

Joy Marie (May) Bernshausen, age 91, of Elizabethton, passed away on Wednesday, January 6, 2021. She was born to the late Roby Dewitt May and Leila Laurel (Bowers) May and was preceded in death by Fritz Bernshausen, her husband, and her seven siblings: Roby May, Violet Dewitt, Rosalie Merritt, Bertha Lou Boone, Riley (Bill) May, Dr. Floyd (Earl) May, and Dr. Joseph (Joe) C. May.

Those left to cherish her memory include five children: Kerry Fawn Johnston, of Elizabethton, Tamlyn Joy Bernshausen, of Elizabethton, Cynthia Lynn Bernshausen, of Elizabethton, Todd Fritz Bernshausen, of Aurora, CO, and Bonny Beth Bernshausen Breeding and husband Pat, of Kingsport; one sister, Hilda Collins and husband Dr. Herbert Collins, of Elizabethton; ten grandchildren: Christopher Miller and wife Sarah, Erik Miller and fiancé Amy, Andrew Johnston and wife Megan, Heath Johnston, Spencer Breeding and wife Brittany, Austin Breeding, Alexis Joy Breeding, Luke Bernshausen, Teagan Bernshausen, and McClane Bernshausen; and eight great grandchildren: Caleb, Sophia, Logan, Nash, Zoe, Ava, Jack, and Emmett.

A service to celebrate the life of Joy Marie (May) Bernshausen will be conducted at 2:00 P M on Sunday, January 10, 2021 in the Chapel of Peace at Tetrick Funeral Home, Elizabethton. The family will receive friends from 1:00 PM until 2:00 PM in the funeral home chapel, prior to the service on Sunday.

Those who prefer memorials in lieu of flowers may make donations to the Shriner's Hospital for Children, 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607 in memory of Joy.

Online condolences may be shared with the family on our website, <http://www.tetrickfuneralhome.com>

Tetrick Funeral Home, Elizabethton is honored to serve the Bernshausen family. Office 42

3-542-2232, service information line, 423-543-4917.

Events

JAN **Visitation** 01:00PM - 02:00PM

10

Tetrick Funeral Home

211 North Riverside Drive, Elizabethton, TN, US, 37643

JAN **Celebration of Life** 02:00PM

10

Tetrick Funeral Home

211 North Riverside Drive, Elizabethton, TN, US, 37643

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Tetrick Funeral - January 10 at 10:05 AM



“ Prayers for Kerry and all the family.
Pam Parker Wheeler

pam wheeler - January 13 at 12:08 PM



“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



Kerry Bernshausen - January 12 at 08:24 PM



“ 16 files added to the tribute wall



Kerry Bernshausen - January 12 at 06:06 PM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Teresa Pearce - January 11 at 03:58 PM



“ Oh, Grandma Joy, where do I start? What a beautiful, kind, and loving person you are! The first time I met you was right before ETBA's first ever Taste of Nutcracker. Cindy asked me to stop by the house and you were buried under angel costumes. What wonderful memories. I will never forget seeing your smiling face out in the audience as you watched your children and grand children work together on stage. You were so proud of each and every one. And who could forget the porch parties and the most amazing strawberry shortcake! My eyes fill with happy tears when I think of you.

Leslie Lewis - January 10 at 08:24 PM



“ I remember going to my great aunt Joy's house with my grandma Hilda. Though I remember good food, a huge Christmas tree and green velvet curtains, it was how she made me feel that I will cherish. I always looked forward to visit because Joy made me feel loved, welcomed, and valued. She inspires me to be someone who makes others feel the same way. She has touched so many lives that many of my family members have their children the middle name Joy. She lived a life with such grace, love and emotional intelligence. She will be missed greatly.

Beth Gardner - January 10 at 02:58 PM



“ As you grieve know that we are remembering you and honoring the memory of Joy. We pray for comfort and peace for all.
Mr. and Mrs. Mike and Angie Ward



The Wards - January 10 at 01:45 PM



“ Aunt Joy has always been an inspiration for me. When we were little, it was always so exciting to hear about Aunt Joy and Uncle Fritz and all the cousins in Okinawa. In my mind, they were intrepid explorers and braving the unknowns half a world away. We all thought it was totally wonderful when Aunt Joy and Uncle Fritz moved “on the other side of the hedge” from Grandma May and it was such fun to cut through the hedge and go visiting Aunt Joy and all the cousins. I used to run my fingers across the exotic furniture and drapes that Aunt Joy brought back from the Far East. Aunt Joy always had such a wonderful smile and such twinkling eyes. She always told the best stories, too. There was never any doubt that she loved all of us, and especially all her children and grandchildren (and great grandchildren, too!) So many memories throughout the years come flooding back to me. I remember Aunt Joy corralling all the cousins to let me photograph them for a college gymnastics project. The picture book I produced not only landed me an “A”, but was used at Milligan College for years as a “how-to” example. When my Mom died, Aunt Joy sat in front of me at the burial service. I stood behind her and she held my hands on her shoulders comforting me. Another time, when we saw her out walking the trail, I remember her saying “I want to stay healthy for my kids and grandkids!”. Most of all, I loved her sweet personality and genuine warmth and caring smile. Aunt Joy, we will miss you! And to all the family, may our thoughts and prayers go with you all, to help to ease your pain at this difficult time. Cling to the wonderful memories that you all share as family and know that you are loved and cherished. Thanks, Elaine Merritt Rourke and all the Merritt Family.



Elaine Merritt - January 10 at 01:43 PM



“ Kerry and family,

So very sorry for the loss of your precious mom. Thoughts and prayers for you and your family.

Carol Lacy DuBose

Carol Lacy DuBose - January 09 at 09:09 PM



“ So sorry you lost your precious Momma. Love, Tammy Curtis Mottern

Tammy Mottern - January 09 at 08:43 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall

Jessika Boggan - January 09 at 07:12 PM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Jessika Boggan - January 09 at 06:57 PM



“ HOW JOY GOT HER NAME

As told to me by Joy's mama, Leila Bowers May

On Leila's one-hundredth birthday, I had an opportunity of ask Granny how she came up with names for nine children. It was hard enough for me to name only two. She just smiled and told me how it was done.

Joy was born on a cold December night at Havre de Grace, Maryland. Leila and 'Witt had moved there from E. Tennessee in June 1929 so "Witt could accept a bookkeeping job with his brother in a new automotive dealership. Four months later, the Stockmarket crashed and plunged the economy into the Great Depression. Grandma was "great with child" at the time and her time had come on December 15. As she was giving birth, at home, they were listening the the radio. There, while cuddling her newborn daughter, the radio DJ played Joy to the World. So she named her child, Joy.

Joy Marie was the embodiment of joy and grace. She always had a smile for everyone. She brought a ray of sunshine into the Great Depression on that cold night in December and she brought joy our world. Rest in peace, Aunt Joy.

With Sympathy to you all,
Sherry May Brewer

Sherry M Brewer - January 09 at 02:51 PM



“ Betsy Bowers lit a candle in memory of Joy Marie (May) Bernshausen



Betsy Bowers - January 09 at 01:05 PM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Alex Breeding - January 09 at 01:05 PM



“ Sherry May and Heather Brewer purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Joy Marie (May) Bernshausen.



Sherry May and Heather Brewer - January 09 at 12:58 PM



“ We had the privilege of meeting this beautiful Lady and our time with her was very special to our family. Our grand daughter had the honor to share her name. We will not be able to attend the services but we made a donation in her name to The Shriners Childrens Hospital. Heaven is sweeter now!! David and Joanie Boggan

David Boggan - January 09 at 11:17 AM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Austin Breeding - January 09 at 09:55 AM



“ Sherry Cable lit a candle in memory of Joy Marie (May) Bernshausen



Sherry Cable - January 09 at 08:40 AM



“ Joy was a beautiful person inside and out. She was the nurse that helped deliver my daughter almost 30 years ago. I will never forget her kindness to me during my entire stay in the hospital. We talked about Fritz walking up and down the railroad tracks carrying the flag. I was so blessed to have known her. Peace be with each family member.

Sherry Cable - January 09 at 08:39 AM



“ Joy was a classmate of mine at EHS. She was always held in high regard as a compassionate, kind and beautiful person. I always looked forward to seeing Joy at our reunions each year. She will always hold a place in my heart as a wonderful friend.

Georgiana Swann Murray Furr - January 10 at 12:29 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Chris Miller - January 08 at 05:48 PM



“ My mama's baby sister is gone. I have many beautiful memories of her and of Uncle Fritz and all you kids. I remember birth announcements from Okinawa and visiting Fort Bragg. I remember the tree house (Toddy's Place) and going swimming with my cousins at Sycamore Shoals. It was so great that she lived' through the hedge" at Grandma's. I remember one happy Grandma's Birthday reunion when a beautiful newborn Alexis made a surprise appearance. Joy was so proud! I'll never forget the speech she gave at Grandma May's 100th birthday, marveling that a woman in the grips of the Depression would name her eighth child "Joy".

Joy clearly loved her family. I know she was close to Grandma. It was nice when she and Aunt Hilda could go on shopping trips and buy Beanie Babies. I remember when she gently explained to me what "heart failure" meant when Aunt Kate was dying. She made Uncle Joe strawberry cakes on his birthday. I just remembered the German "Christmas cakes" she would make for us at Christmas. I'll always cherish that she came to tell my mom "good bye".

But it was her children that she loved most of all. She was so proud of each of your accomplishments and was fiercely protective .When possible, my dad would squeeze in a trip to Elizabethton on Christmas Eve. I remember seeing Joy very late one year, making plaid Barbie doll outfits. I guess Santa had to wait until everyone was asleep.

Joy was the best listener I know. She looked you in the eyes when you were talking, never interrupted and asked clarifying questions. When it became so difficult for her to talk, it was clear that she was listening even harder. She still looked you in the eyes and talked with her eyes and her smile. I miss her so much!

Know that I love you all. I know that your hearts are broken but hope that happy memories will bring you peace.

Klyda

Klyda L Boone - January 08 at 05:23 PM