



## Bernice Saunders

June 16, 1935 - December 8, 2020

Bernice Hart Saunders, age 85, of Nashville and formerly of Robertson County, passed away Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at Boulevard Terrace in Murfreesboro. There will be a private memorial service for her family at the Austin & Bell Funeral Home in Springfield at 1pm on Saturday, December 12, 2020 followed by a graveside service at Springfield Memorial Gardens at 2pm.

Out of respect for everyone's health and safety during the pandemic, there will not be a formal, in-person visitation. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family through Austin & Bell Funeral Home's webpage or directly to individual family members.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in honor of Bernice Saunders go to the Nashville Tree Foundation, a non-profit organization that works to preserve and enhance Nashville's urban forests. Ms. Saunders loved to plant trees.

Ms. Saunders was born on a farm in Cedar Hill, Tennessee and remained a farm girl at heart for the remainder of her life. She was a basketball standout at Jo Byrns High School and then a straight A student and cheerleader at Middle Tennessee State University. Ms. Saunders went on to receive a Masters Degree in Education from Tennessee State University. Thereafter, she became an elementary school teacher at both Bordeaux Elementary School and Old Center Elementary School. She loved to play the piano, and to work with flowers and gardens. Her favorite places were her family farm in Cedar Hill and the Great Smoky Mountains. After her retirement, she became a regular volunteer at Tri-Star Skyline Medical Center in Nashville.

Ms. Saunders is preceded in death by her parents, Claude and Bessie Hart and her son, Mike Saunders. She is survived by her son, Tony Saunders of Nashville; and grandchildren, Patrick Saunders, Christopher Saunders, Holly Smith, Heather Taylor and Hunter Saunders.

Austin & Bell Funeral Home in Springfield is in charge of these arrangements.

AUSTIN & BELL FUNERAL HOME-

509 WALNUT STREET, SPRINGFIELD, TN (615) 384-1000

# Cemetery Details

## Springfield Memorial Gardens

Springfield, TN 37172

# Previous Events

## Graveside service

DEC 12. 2:00 PM (CT)

Springfield Memorial Gardens  
Springfield, TN 37172

# Tribute Wall

BH

“ Dear Tony, I am just now seeing this obituary. I am very, very sorry for your loss. My mother and your grandmother Bessie were sisters. I knew Bernice while growing up in Springfield and thought she was one of the sweetest people ever. I spent many wonderful times on the farm with Bessie and Claude and have such wonderful memories of your family. Bernice once presided over my sister's birthday party, making the party fun with games she led for us kids. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Bernice was a very special person.  
Your cousin,  
Brenda Craft Henderson

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**Brenda Craft Henderson** - December 22, 2020 at 03:55 PM

LJ

“ Sending condolences to Bernice's family. I worked with her at the hospital and loved her dearly. She was such a sweet, kind-hearted lady.

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**Lisa Jacobs** - December 16, 2020 at 07:37 AM

LW

“ Tony and Family - Please accept our sincere condolences for your loss. I loved Bernice and always looked forward to seeing her when I visited my mom at Brookdale Belle Meade. She never failed to take my face in both of her hands and give me a kiss. She and my mom were good friends and she was a bright light at Brookdale. She lit up whenever having the opportunity to dance! And she was a lovely dancer.

Again, so sorry for this loss. The world will be a little less bright.

Sincerely, Lynn and Steve Waterman

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**Lynn and Steve Waterman** - December 11, 2020 at 01:50 PM