



## Mrs. Bertha Griffis Maguire

January 14, 1924 - January 19, 2020

Mrs. Bertha Griffis Maguire, 96, of Albany, died Sunday, January 19, 2020 at her residence. Graveside services will be held Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 2:00 PM at Crown Hill Cemetery. Rev. Thad Haygood will officiate.

Mrs. Maguire served in the Dougherty County School System for 25 years. She was Principal at Highland Avenue School for 15 years and spent 10 years as Assistant Superintendent of DOCO Public Schools where she was instrumental in developing the Partners in Excellence program. She also served as President of the Southeastern Elementary School Principals and President of the National Association of Elementary School Principals. After retiring in 1984, Mrs. Maguire became very involved in volunteer work for many community organizations. She served on the board of the American Heart Association (President), March of Dimes, Leadership Albany, Retired Teachers Association, Delta Kappa Gamma, and as President of Women in Network.

Mrs. Maguire was selected as Albany's Woman of the Year for 1986. She received many awards including M.L.King Dream Award. She was a faithful member of Fellowship Sunday School Class at First United Methodist Church.

Survivors include her son, John T. Maguire of Hoover, AL, 3 daughters, Laura Barstow of Douglasville, GA, Kathy Bedsole of Orange Beach, AL and Dr.

Patty Maguire of Conyers, GA, 6 grandchildren, Kerry S. Maguire, Shelley Maguire, Charles C. Williamson, Joe Bedsole III, Jill Roberts and Jessica Trowell and 8 great grandchildren.

Bertha was preceded in death by her husband, James Clarence Maguire.

Memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church, 307 Flint Ave., Albany, GA 31701 or to a charity of your choice.

To share your thoughts with the Maguire family, you may visit our website at [www.kimbrellstern.com](http://www.kimbrellstern.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Crown Hill Cemetery

1907 Dawson Rd  
Albany, GA 31707  
(229) 883-6600  
<https://www.kimbrellstern.com/>

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

JAN **22**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Crown Hill Cemetery  
1907 Dawson Rd  
Albany, GA 31707  
(229) 883-6600  
<https://www.kimbrellstern.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Bertha Griffis Maguire*

May 22, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ *Mrs. Bertha Griffis Maguire*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ *Truly my thoughts and prayers are with the family at this difficult time. Bert was very special lady. I knew Bert mainly through Delta Kappa Gamma and as a fellow teacher and thought so much of her. She shall be missed.*

**Carleen Flowers** - January 29, 2020 at 04:02 PM



“ *Patty, I am so sorry to hear of your moms passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family*

**allison Jones kerley** - January 23, 2020 at 02:57 PM



“ *Mrs. Maguire was my 6th grade teacher at Magnolia School in 1960. Will always remember how kind she was to me. My most sincere condolences.*

*Martha Conley Holloway*

**Marti Conley Holloway** - January 23, 2020 at 01:21 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Bertha Griffis Maguire.



---

January 22, 2020 at 01:01 PM



“ John, Laura , Kathy and Patty my love for my namesake, Aunt Bertha Doris, is beyond measure. Growing up across from granny we all were very close enjoying every visit y'all came! I know she's having a grand reunion with all our family. And y'all's precious dad, our precious uncle Jim too. The reunion of all our momas family are together again! Our heart hurts but another way we know she's rejoicing! She was an amazing woman, daughter, sister, mother, wife, grandmother and especially our Aunt Bertha Doris! She was my rock when MoMA died and stayed close to give me with "MoMA grief counseling" of which I desperately needed! Yet my MoMA was her sister!! I am praying for all of yall and keeping our precious memories close! I love all y'all!!! Doris Neel Bush



---

**Doris Neel Bush** - January 21, 2020 at 04:07 PM

CR

“ *Laura, I am sorry to learn of your mother's passing. I knew her mostly through her association with my late step-mother, Dorothy Rainey.*

*I hope it is appropriate to share a memory of you on that tragic day Nov. 22, 1963 when President Kennedy was killed and teachers at AHS led students in cheers. I remember when they released us that I passed you weeping in the parking lot and you looked at me and asked, "What kind of people are we?" I have never forgotten that day nor your question. God bless you for asking it and God bless the memory of a mother who raised you to have the courage to ask it!*

---

**Clive Rainey** - January 21, 2020 at 03:42 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Bertha Griffis Maguire.*



---

January 21, 2020 at 02:28 PM

NM

“ *John, "Sissy", Kathy and Patty our hearts are saddened to learn of the passing of your mom (our dear Aunt Bert). We will forever cherish the memories of your family visits at granny's house growing up. She was the last of the 4 Griffis siblings and she was that link to our past.. I enjoyed keeping up with her and the family through text after our sister, Frankie, passed away. Nancy Neel Miller*

---

**Nancy Neel Miller** - January 21, 2020 at 01:33 PM



Gail Alford

“ *Ms. Maguire was my Principal all through my elementary school years! Sweet lady! GOD BLESS!*

---

**Gail Alford** - January 21, 2020 at 01:17 PM



NR

“ *My mother worked with Mrs. Maguire, and I am a member with her in WIN. Such a fine lady!*  
*Nancy Reimer*

---

**Nancy Reimer** - January 21, 2020 at 12:14 PM



PM

“ *To all Bert's family:*  
*I did love your mother so very much. She was an icon in the educational world where I first met her. We were friends for many, many years and celebrated her birthday up until a few years ago, when it became difficult for her to continue. She was witty, smart, and LOVED all of you so much. She always brought us up to date with what was going on with her children and gradchildren. I had hoped she would write a book about her escapades as a principal, and then, assistant superintendent. There will never be another Bert Maguire, but I rejoice, today, in knowing she has reunited with "her Jim" as she would always call him. Prayers and warm thoughts for each of you. A great legacy for you all to follow!!*

---

**Patsy Martin** - January 21, 2020 at 11:12 AM

MR

*Patsy, I think you spoke for all of us who were Bert's friends. She will be missed by all of us.*  
*Milt Robinson*

---

**Milton Robinson** - January 22, 2020 at 08:12 AM

DM

*Kathy, I mourn with you and your family the passing of your dear mother. May she rest gently in His arms. Dave McBride*

---

**Dave McBride** - January 25, 2020 at 05:42 PM



*Your mom was an awesome teacher with a great sense of humor. She told our class the story of you answering the phone as a child. The caller asked where your mom was? You promptly answered " in Milledgeville"! I have thought of her often. Will see her in Heaven....Lynn Yielding-Akins*

---

**Mary Akins** - February 18, 2020 at 10:19 PM

GH

*A wonderful, wonderful woman. I knew her as my Kids Principal at Highland and a co-worker at the Bd of Ed. My Favorite thing- when I had my son in 57- brother of 2 girls-I called the School-and she announced it on the PA System. Gerry Hill*

---

**Gerry Hill** - April 02, 2020 at 10:54 AM