



Bland Newcomb Cleesattle

June 27, 1947 - November 1, 2024

Bland Newcomb Cleesattle died on Friday, All Saints Day November 1 peacefully at Willson Hospice House at the age of 77.

Bland was born in Albany, Georgia as the eldest child of Bob and Mimi Newcomb who preceded her in death as well as a brother, Robin Newcomb. Bland married Don Cleesattle in 1968 who also preceded her in death. Bland is survived by two sons, Don Cleesattle of Albany, Ga. and Ken (Holley) Cleesattle of Athens, AL and five grandchildren, Donald Cleesattle III, Zoe Cleesatte both of Albany, Marcie (John David) Smith and Caroline, Bland's great granddaughter, Fitzpatrick, AL; Lansdon and Kenley Cleesattle of Athens, AL; a sister, Ri (Don) Lamb, a brother, Ned (Mary) Newcomb and numerous much loved nieces and nephews and cousins both in Albany and beyond.

Following graduation from Albany High School, Bland held a series of jobs including being the office manager for Newcomb-Mayflower before landing at Phoebe Putney in 1986 as the Coordinator for the Golden Key Club, a group that grew far beyond the goals of the the Marketing Department to attract 1000's of members who enjoyed monthly birthday parties, health screenings/education and eventually trips that took members all over the United States and some beyond our borders. While at Phoebe, Bland was instrumental in helping with the Centennial Museum. She retired from Phoebe in 2014 after 28 years but continued to find opportunities to volunteer at the hospital she loved.

Bland took great care to research and preserve history and so, for her family and the town of Albany, a library has closed. Bland loved to travel and to research her destinations, to share with the group traveling with her interesting facts along the way; she was a tour guide with Astro Travel and felt it was her obligation to make the trip a learning opportunity for everyone. In her spare time she taught Safe Driving classes for AARP.

Bland was a lifelong member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church where she rarely missed an event. She faithfully participated in Ladles of Love, served as a member of the Vestry, was President of the Daughters of the King, regularly attended Centering Prayer, loved Cursillo and graduated from Sewanee's Education For Ministry. Members of The Episcopal Church of St. John and St. Mark also claimed Bland as one of their own as she filled many roles and faithfully attended this community as well.

In the Albany community Bland was a member of the Chairman of the Smith House, past President of Thronateeska Heritage, a Board member of Westvilleville, 100 Women Who Care, the Junior League, the National Society of Colonial Dames and always supported the Albany Little Theatre.

A service to celebrate Bland's life will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 212 N. Jefferson St., Albany, Ga. at 1:30 PM on Friday, Nov. 15, 2024. A reception will follow in the church parish hall.

Those desiring to make memorials are encouraged to remember St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 212 N. Jefferson, Albany, 31701, your local Boy Scout organization or Lights of Love at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV 15. 1:30 PM (ET)

Saint Pauls Episcopal Church
212 N Jefferson St
Albany, GA 31701
(229) 436-0196

Tribute Wall

GM

“ I’m just now learning of Ms Cleesattle’s passing. I had the pleasure of knowing her both as a Pink Lady and as a customer. I used to work for Goodyear Service Center and serviced her vehicle each time it came in. One of the sweetest ladies I have ever met and always spoke to her when I saw her outside of work. She will be greatly missed.

Geoffrey Moore - November 25, 2024 at 12:34 PM

BR

“ Sweet lady and enjoyed going on trips. Sure will miss her. Sympathy to the family.



Ben and Carolyn Barron Ramsey - November 15, 2024 at 01:53 PM

JJ

“ My name is Jackie Johnson and I’m posting this on behalf of me and my Mom (Buford Snipes) who was a FREQUENT Golden Key traveler with Ms. Bland.

I took this photo of her after they arrived back from their Lion King event in Atlanta on October 19, 2024... just days before her transition to Glory.

My last words to her were... “Come on Ms. bland... let me get your photo because as I always tell everyone... tomorrow isn’t promised!”

As you can see ... she graciously obliged and even though I know she was EXHAUSTED... she took the time to SMILE to allow me to capture this photo!

I will cherish this memory along with the many more that I captured of her and my Mom on their many trips! I was always there at the Phoebe NW Parking lot to see them off and welcome them back! RIP Ms Bland! The tours won’t be the same without you!!! 🙏❤️



Jackie Johnson - November 15, 2024 at 11:33 AM

CI

“ While I worked in Volunteer Servies (14 yrs) at PPMH, we shared office space with Golden Key. I witnessed how dedicated Bland was to her job. Hearing the stories of her travels and experiences was enjoyable. Bland was a smart woman in many ways. I also enjoyed hearing her share where from and what all the pieces of her jewelry meant to her. Never had I known a person who had so much jewelry. She lived life to the fullest! RIP Bland! Prayers for peace will continue for her family.

Cathy Ivey - November 15, 2024 at 09:36 AM

LF

“ Lopez and Tignor Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bland Newcomb Cleesattle.

Lopez and Tignor Family - November 14, 2024 at 08:27 PM

LF

“ Lopez and Tignor Family purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Bland Newcomb Cleesattle.



Lopez and Tignor Family - November 14, 2024 at 08:27 PM

MH

“ From my earliest memory long ago my family lived across the lake from the Newcombs. My brothers and sister spent many countless fabulous hours with them from our earliest childhood until after we had all finished high school. Some of our fondest included archery, swimming, learning to milk a cow, riding through Albany in their horse drawn surrey, Sunday school, Boy Scout Island and events at St. Paul’s, holidays, Tift Park, and so much more. Generally – just growing up. Thank you Bland and your wonderful family. Michael Harris

Michael Harris - November 14, 2024 at 05:04 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Bland Newcomb Cleesattle.

November 13, 2024 at 04:53 PM



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Bland Newcomb Cleesattle.



November 13, 2024 at 04:53 PM

AI

“ Astro Travel and Tours, Inc. purchased the Fairer t of All for the family of Bland Newcomb Cleesattle.



Astro Travel and Tours, Inc. - November 12, 2024 at 12:41 PM

AI

“ Astro Travel and Tours, Inc. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bland Newcomb Cleesattle.

Astro Travel and Tours, Inc. - November 12, 2024 at 12:41 PM

SF

“ Sur-Seal Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Bland Newcomb Cleesattle.



Sur-Seal Family - November 11, 2024 at 08:31 PM

DJ

“ I met Ms. Bland through my sister Shirley Baker. She was kind and very welcoming. May she rest in peace.

Dr. Judy Jones-Liptrot - November 10, 2024 at 08:22 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Bland Newcomb Cleesattle.



November 10, 2024 at 07:38 AM

LB

“ To Donald and Ken - I am so sorry for your loss. Your ole Scoutmaster has you in my thoughts and prayers. I guess I first meet your mother working for your grandfather, Bob Newcomb, the owner of Newcombe Mayflower. It was my summer job. Eddie Cooling was very good to me. Your mother, Grandfather, and uncle Eddie were my instrumental mentors when I was a teenager. I thank your family and especially your mother. I would not survived as a Scoutmaster without your family's help. We, Tom our Assistant Scoutmaster, my brother, and I thought we could do a better job at running a Summer Camp than the Chehaw Council and Camp Osborn. The meat in the mess hall of our "Summer Camp" at the "LAKE HOUSE" at then Georgia Southwestern College in Americus was supplied by your parents. The meals of chili, spaghetti, burgers, stroganoff, and sloppy joes were all cooked with ground venison donated by your dad. And he looked after me at the Pace building. Those meals taught me properly prepared venison shot from a deer stand did not have a gamey taste and convinced me to begin deer hunting. I still have the 2 pocket knives your mother presented to me, one for each of you on the occasion of your receipt of your Eagle Badge and Eagle Court of Honor. I cherish the pocket knives handed to me by your Mother who was also "good to Me" and a multitude of other people.

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Lee Bishop - November 09, 2024 at 08:57 AM

BH

“ Bland was always loving and welcoming. I miss you.

Brent Harris - November 08, 2024 at 10:08 PM

JH

“ Bland, I miss you already. I've known you every day of our lives. We were born on the same day and the same year. We called ourselves "twins". You never forgot our birthday or greetings at Christmas. You and your family were a huge part of my life during our growing years. I love you Bland, now and always.

Jack Harris - November 08, 2024 at 06:01 PM

KK

“ Bland was my AARP Safe Driver trainer. She was always encouraging and supportive. I will miss her.



Kimberly Knighton - November 08, 2024 at 01:32 PM

MB

“ As a boy my brother and I spent many hours at the Newcomb's home. Getting a peak in the "New Room" where our parents gathered for a special socializing session; going to Turtle Hill to perform skits while many sets of parents were again socializing (I later learned what was in those glasses which I thought was too light to be a coke); boat rides; the cool grandfather clock; the parachute; the peacocks and the Swiss Family Robinson style hut on the island where Robin convinced us motorcycle gang members came late at night to gather (I did not sleep that night). I remember swinging on the door at the bottom of the stairs into the kitchen.....it was while doing this that I met Bland and Ri for the first time----the big sisters as they came into the kitchen. Well the contacts with the Newcombs continued for years after that to this day. With Bland I was so impressed with her level of community commitment. She was a great advocate for so many great causes and always so friendly. She has left so many wonderful memories including being an example for all of us to follow. I am thinking of all of you. Michael MvB

Michael S. Meyer von Bremen - November 08, 2024 at 09:33 AM

DW

“ Danny & Brenda Gail (Tramel) Wall lit a candle in memory of Bland Newcomb Cleesattle



Danny & Brenda Gail (Tramel) Wall - November 07, 2024 at 10:47 AM

DA

Cleesattle Family=Our thoughts and prayers are with you all! Danny & Brenda Gail (Tramel) Wall

Danny - November 07, 2024 at 10:49 AM

LB

I wanted to write this comment under Judge Michael Meyer von Bremen memory comments, but the box will not open . It is good to be reminded Albany once had more of a small town feel , and allowed so many people to be touched by Bland. She was certainly good to me - Lee Bishop

Lee Bishop - November 09, 2024 at 01:38 AM



“ Savory Farmhouse Gift Box was purchased for the family of Bland Newcomb Cleesattle.



November 06, 2024 at 12:44 PM

CW

“ Bland & Don was nice people Love to be around them they used to live above Mom & dad. Me,dad,Don went hunting together they were loveable people they will be greatly missed Clyde Wilson

Clyde Wilson - November 06, 2024 at 07:40 AM

SB

I met Bland over 20 years ago during my membership with the Golden Key Club, & have experienced some wonderful travel adventures with her over the years. I had gotten to know her quite well, & loved to hear her many stories of traveling the world. I will truly miss her. Thanks Bland, for touching my life in such a special way. Shirley Baker

Shirley Baker - November 07, 2024 at 02:33 PM

BS

“ Bland was such a blessing to me in many ways. Brenda Cameron-Smith

Brenda Smith - November 06, 2024 at 12:29 AM

DW

“ *Diane W. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bland Newcomb Cleesattle.*

Diane W. - November 05, 2024 at 09:28 PM

RH

“ *RIP Mrs Cleesattle. Prayers with you Donald and the family.*
Robert Haggerty

Robert Haggerty - November 05, 2024 at 06:57 PM

FC

“ *Faye Cannon Castleberry lit a candle in memory of Bland Newcomb Cleesattle*



Faye Cannon Castleberry - November 05, 2024 at 04:20 PM

FC

“ *I was sorry to read this about Bland. We went to school together. She was a very nice person anytime that you saw her. Very pleasant to be around. Thoughts and prayers will be with her family and friends.*

Faye Cannon Castleberry - November 05, 2024 at 04:19 PM

CR

“ *Ahhh, Bland! What a loss and a lifetime of memories through all these years! You were and will be a blessing forever. May flights of angels sing you to your rest!*
Clive Rainey

Clive Rainey - November 05, 2024 at 09:16 AM

JB

“ *Bland has always been so special to us. What a sweetheart. She will be missed, but will always be in our hearts. May her memory be a blessing to all.*

Janie & Bruce Bitterman



Janie & Bruce Bitterman - November 04, 2024 at 08:48 PM

FA

“ *A very special friend to us for a lifetime. Katherine and Frank Ahouse*



frank ahouse - November 04, 2024 at 12:31 PM