



Mrs. Mary Redfearn Kaliher Obituary

November 21, 1917 - November 21, 2012

Mary Redfearn Kaliher, born November 21, 1917 in Albany, Georgia, died peacefully in her sleep on her 95th birthday, November 21, 2012. She was blessed to have her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren in town to celebrate her birthday and Thanksgiving.

Her funeral service was held Friday 4 PM at Crown Hill Cemetery with the Rev. Carrie Myers officiating.

Mary was the daughter of the late Dr. James A. Redfearn and Elleighfare Muse Redfearn. An Albany native, Mary graduated from Albany High School as an outstanding basketball player. Later, she graduated from the University of Georgia, where she was an Alpha Delta Pi. Following graduation, Mary taught school in Lanette, Alabama, Darlington School in Rome, Georgia, and the University of Georgia. Her love of learning played a role in her children and grandchildren obtaining degrees in higher education.

During World War II, Mary met and married Major Russell E. Kaliher, a pilot, who was stationed at Turner Field in Albany, Georgia. After the war, Mary and Russ spent a short time in Bemidji, Minnesota, Russ' home town, before returning to Albany where they lived out their years.

In Albany, Mary enjoyed the dual role of raising her three children along with numerous civic activities. Mary was an active leader in Cub Scouts, Brownies, and Girl Scouts. In the community, Mary was a member of both the Junior League of Albany and the Colonial Dames of America in the state of Georgia. She served as past Town Chairman of the Albany chapter of Colonial Dames.

She and her husband Russ were the first members of Doublegate County Club where Mary was an accomplished golfer. Being a loyal YMCA member, Mary exercised until she was 93. Mary was also a lifelong member of Albany's First United Methodist Church, and enjoyed the Discussion Sunday School Class.

What her family will remember and treasure the most about Mary was an independent spirit, a positive outlook on life, her generosity and a gift of hospitality. Mary had a passion for Southern cooking and an invitation to her table was always a memorable experience for family and guests. A woman before her time, Mary will be greatly missed by those who love her.

Survivors include her daughter, Nancy Kaliher Ellanson (Butch), Albany; sons, Russell E. Kaliher, JR. (Sidney), Vero Beach, FL, William J Kaliher (Lorraine), Swainsboro; grandchildren, Katherine A. Kaliher, Coral Gables, FL, Dr. Russell E. Kaliher, III (Rebecca), Austin, TX, Chad Kaliher, Homer, AK, Kristy Kruger (EJ), Albany, Doug Kaliher (Shea), Winterville, Jason Portt, Sugar Hill, Mary Ann Portt, Atlanta; step grandchildren, Patrick Ellanson, Homer Glenn, IL, Zackary Ellanson, McLean, VA, Garrett Ellanson, Tallahassee, FL, Michael Jackson (Kim), Walterboro, SC; great grandchildren, Sidney Kaliher, Mary Kate Kaliher, Kira Kaliher, Graham Harpole, Will Harpole, Carson Jackson, Fisher Jackson; brother Dr. James A. Redfearn (Agnes), Dalton.

Those desiring please make memorial to First United Methodist Church, P O Box 448, Albany, GA 31702.

You may sign the guestbook and share your thoughts with the family of Mrs. Kaliher by visiting Kimbrell-Stern's website at www.kimbrellstern.com.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

NOV **23**. 4:00 PM (ET)

Crown Hill Cemetery
1907 Dawson Rd.
Albany, GA 31707

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Mary Redfearn Kaliher Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 01:29 AM



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“ *Mrs. Mary Redfearn Kaliher Obituary*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ *having gone to school with bill and his outstanding with albany indians i want to let him know my heart is with him during this hard times*

chris koch - albany, GA - class65 - November 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Happy Birthday Grandmother!! Love you!!!! See you later.*

Doug Kaliher - November 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Nancy, My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.*

Al Coston - Starke, FL - November 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ Heartfelt condolences to Mary's family...had the pleasure of Mary's fine hospitality. Mary radiated warmth and graciousness.

Geralene Edwards Thurnau - SC - November 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

EF

“ Rusty, Sidney & families,
My many memories of Mary Kaliher go back about as far as my life is long - spending the night at her home, dining at her table, growing up in the same neighborhood with her children as my friends, riding to & from the YMCA (and so many other places) with her, boating/skiing on the creek, and so much more. She was a wonderful lady, and I feel very fortunate & blessed to have shared a part of my life knowing her.
My thoughts & prayers are with you and your families,

Ernest Sutton

Ernest Sutton - Melbourne, FL - friend - November 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Dear Rusty and family,
I was deeply saddened to read of the death of your mother. She was a great lady who will be missed by many. My heart and my prayers go out to you who are left. May you feel God's loving arms wrapped tightly around you. Love you. Sara

Sara Joiner Eubanks - Ellijay, GA - Friend - November 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Nancy, Rusty, Bill and family, My thoughts and prayers are with you. I remember all the good times the neighborhood kids had on summer evenings playing Kick the Can and other games in your back yard.
Of course Nancy and I had many happy hours riding together on our horses.
Ms. Mary was always ready with a cool drink and her pretty smile for all of us.
Thinking of you,
Carol

Carol Mauldin Rathel - Leesburg, GA - Friend - November 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ From 2004 until 2008, when my mother, Mary Moncrief, went to be with the Lord, I had the privilage to have many a Saturday lunch with the crew from their AHS class that met for lunch. It was always such fun, and they did enjoy it so much. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. I know she had a big crowd waiting for her when she reached heaven.
Skippi Moncrief Possy

Skippi Moncrief Posey - Albany, GA - friend - November 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NG

“ Nancy and Family- Thinking of you at this time!
Nancy Reimer

Nancy Reimer - Albany, GA - November 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

WF

“ Our families have been so intertwined in friendship for so many years Mary's passing makes me remember the fun times; the cookouts in the early years, the meals at Grandmother Redfearn's house discovering the buzzer under the dining table, the Debutante Ball with Nancy and so many, many more. You are all in my thoughts, prayers and fond memories of better times.
Bill Russell

William Russell - Winterville, GA - friend - November 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Nancy, Rusty and family,

I'll miss your mother talking with me most every afternoon while at Morningside. She'd always tell the help that it was okay for her to go outside on the porch because Milton would be there to see about her. She had just called me over to her table Tuesday night.

My prayers are with your family.

Milton Robinson - Albany, GA - Friend - November 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ *Miss May will be missed but she had a wonderful life and she is with her husband now. She will be looking after her family from heaven now. May God Bless all of her Family*

Jan M. Rusin - Albany,, GA - friend of Nancy Ellanson - November 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM