



Mary Joyce Blake

April 23, 1948 - October 16, 2025

Mary 'Joyce' Blake was born April 23, 1948 in Covington, Kentucky to parents Raymond and Bertha Lunsford. She passed away on October 16, 2025 in Huntsville, Texas.

She retired from the Veteran's Administration where she worked as a Certified Nurse's Assistant for about 14 years. She was a caregiver for the Vet's in the VA's Nursing Home. She loved that job and tried every day to treat the veterans with dignity and respect.

Joyce is preceded in death by her father, Raymond Paul Lunsford (Vet of WWII), her mother Bertha Mae Rider, her daughters Shelly Marie Handy (Jeff) and Jackie Gayle Scott, her brothers Joe Allphin, Terry Allphin, and Robert Lunsford, and her husband and children's father James Eddie Blake, Sr.

Her mourning immediate family includes her brothers Ronnie Allphin and Tim Lunsford (Valerie), her sister Donna McPherron (Victor), and her son Eddie Blake and his wife Kathy Blake. Joyce's grandchildren include Tim Blake (Louise), Tara Beach (Shawn), Brittany Murphy (Marcus), Hunter Blake, Tanner Blake and Amanda Matlock (Dustin). Her great grandchildren include McKenzie, Mason, Madison, and Myles Kindoll; Caylee, Ariana and Myla Murphy; Isaiah, Luke and Brandi Matlock; Audrianna and Adiline Blake. Great, great grandchild is Leanna Kindoll. Family members who continued to have close contact her were Jason and Billi Jo Lunsford. Her most special friends

were Christine Allphin (Chip), Teresa Blake-Smith (Doug) and Gracie Yelton.

Mom will be most remembered for her nurturing and caring attitude. She never turned away those in need but didn't coddle those who could and should do better. She was the calm voice in the hurricane whispering, 'Just keep moving forward and it'll get better' as well as "You're gettin' on my nerves".

The family will receive friends and loved ones on Wednesday, October 22, 2025 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville. Burial will follow at Mayes Addition of Oakwood Cemetery in Huntsville.

Memorial condolences to the family may be made at www.shmfh.com.

Cemetery Details

Mayes Addition of Oakwood Cemetery

800 Martin Luther King BLVD.
Huntsville, TX 77320

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **22**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville
1700 Normal Park Dr.
Huntsville, TX 77340

Burial

OCT **22**. 12:30 PM (CT)

Mayes Addition of Oakwood Cemetery
800 Martin Luther King BLVD.
Huntsville, TX 77320

Tribute Wall

TB

“ *My grandma was an amazing woman strong independent. She loved her family with all her heart she raised all of us she was beautiful inside and out she would take the shirt off her back for anyone. Hardheaded and stubborn lol but I wouldn't of traded her for nothing. I love her so much this is going to be so hard to lose an amazing soul but she is with Jesus and her daughters and mom and dad she is going to be a beautiful angel in heaven you will be missed. Ill make sure your memory lives on. I will make your stuffing for Thanksgiving and put your Christmas houses out under the tree. Love you mammah.*

Tara Beach - October 21, 2025 at 04:49 PM

KB

“ I might my mother n law a few days before I married her son. She was super proud of him. Within the past year and a half she became like a 2nd mom and good friends. Listening to her past and all she had lost in her life ,to watching her crochet one of her favorite activities. She would always listen to me vent about work, her son or my health. In the summer she would be on the back porch cigarette in hand me in pool listening to the oldies until I would fall asleep and she would always say" I don't know how you sleep in that sun it is hot here in Texas. Or when she would get up kate at night and I would be up cleaning or arts and crafting and she would always say, Kathy, when are you going to get some sleep its late. I loved watching her crochet she wanted to make everyone that asked one. She was the most caring person I know. I am sure going to miss her. Last memory to share tonight was one of my favorites, we went to the Dr. then out to eat and last to get our hair cut or I mean butchered. I remember being at the red light and me complaining about it and she said look at mine and we both laughed. I love and already miss you like crazy. Gone to soon. Love you.



Katherine Charlene Blake - October 21, 2025 at 12:46 AM

TB

Love it

Tara Beach - October 21, 2025 at 04:52 PM

BM

“ *My grandma was the glue that held our family together. One thing we all shared was the love that we had for her. This loss is one of the hardest our family has faced thus far. Prayers is appreciated.*



Brittany murphy - October 20, 2025 at 10:28 PM

TB

Love it

Tara Beach - October 21, 2025 at 04:52 PM



“ My mother was a wonderful woman. She always put family first and told it like it was. She balanced sympathy with stern action like no one I've ever met. She was funny and smart. I'm really going to miss her. Every time we went to the doctor they would ask "are you living with your son?" and before she could answer I would say "no, I'm living with her". She would always look at me like I was crazy and laugh.

She raised or helped raise, 3 generations of kids. Family members in trouble always knew they could come to our house. Growing up, the kids' beds were sometimes 3-4 deep in a twin bed. No one ever complained and we all ate whatever poor folks ate when you have nothing. We've went years without running water. Too big or too small clothes and worn out shoes for school. I can honestly say, I don't ever remember going hungry. There was a time where all we had were the squirrels to eat that I shot. We ate squirrel for a week straight and to the end mom never ate another one. Dad had to kill our landlord's chicken once for us to eat. I remember that like it was yesterday. There were hard times and times of plenty. It wasn't all beans and corn bread. I will say, if you didn't get to eat that government cheese, you missed out. Mom and I were talking about that recently and we both agreed that was the best cheese. Mom had a really, really rough life...from stem to stern. In the end, she got to live in relative peace, with a little extra money to help others when they needed it and she REALLY enjoy the country life. She liked talking about the cows and especially the chickens. She liked all of them except the rooster who got right next to her at the porch and crowed in her face all day. She would always say the same thing, "This rooster doesn't have his time right because he's only supposed to do that in the morning!" We had a great time together this past year and a half and were together almost the entire time. That was the best blessing I could have been given by God. I'm heart broken to the core, I wasn't ready, but my faith in God tells me He makes no mistakes and it was time to bring her home.

James Blake - October 20, 2025 at 05:26 PM

TB

Love it

Tara Beach - October 21, 2025 at 05:00 PM

GK

“ *Gayle Kelly lit a candle in memory of Mary Joyce Blake*



Gayle Kelly - October 20, 2025 at 04:37 PM

MF

“ *Lifting up the family and friends of Mary Blake for comfort and strength from our Lord Jesus Christ,*



Marvin Hyvl & Family - October 20, 2025 at 02:00 PM