



## Patricia A Bailey

September 24, 1954 - December 9, 2020

Patricia Anne Bailey, age 66, passed this life on Wednesday evening, December 9th, 2020 at Harton Hospital after a courageous six-year battle with cancer. Born September 24th, 1954 to Joseph W. and Frances Smith Bailey. She grew up in Tullahoma and graduated in the top ten percent of her class from Tullahoma High in 1972. She obtained both a bachelor's and master's degree in education from Middle Tennessee State University.

She was a devout Christian and lifelong member of First Christian Church. She was a founding member of the Koinonia Circle, a member of Bob's Bible Bunch, and a member of the care committee.

She devoted her life to passionately serving the children of Tullahoma and was a beloved teacher at Bel-Aire Elementary school for 37 years. She had a profound impact on the lives of hundreds of children. She was active in the Tullahoma Education Association serving several years as Treasurer. In addition, she served as a representative on Bel-Aire's CEO program and was instrumental in its development and success. She was highly thought of by her peers and was voted teacher of the year twice. She was a member of Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority, an International Honorary Organization for Women Educators, and served as secretary even while fighting her battle with cancer.

She never forgot the children she taught and followed them through the newspaper, word of mouth, and Facebook. She formed a special bond with a group of teachers, affectionally known as the Mountain Sisters, and always

looked forward to their annual trip to Gatlinburg.

Several times throughout the course of her cancer diagnosis, she experienced medical setbacks but always remained optimistic and fought to overcome them. After one setback, she had to relearn to walk. However, upon arriving home and getting cleared to drive the first thing she did was take a neighbor to the store who needed groceries. This was a testament to her lifelong nature of being selfless and always putting other first.

She is preceded in death by her father Joseph W. Bailey. She is survived by her mother, Frances Smith Bailey of Tullahoma, brother Larry of Tullahoma, adopted sister Nancy (William) Irby of Tullahoma; nephew Clay (Susan) Irby of Knoxville, TN, and niece Blair (Jason) Lewis of Atlanta, GA. She is also survived by one great nephew John Clayton Irby and two great nieces Reagan and Kinsley Lewis.

A graveside service for family will be held Sunday, December 13, at 2 PM at Rose Hill Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Bel-Aire PTO for their scholarship fund.

Online condolences may be made at [www.davesculbertsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.davesculbertsonfuneralhome.com). Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Patricia A Bailey*

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January 25, 2023 at 12:28 AM



“ *I was blessed to be the first grade teacher of some of Patricia's Kindergarten students! They were always so excited to see her in the hall & she always was excited to see them too! My fondest memory of Patricia was when we attended a University of Tennessee football game together & got to visit with her nephew, Clay, who was a student there at the time. She will be missed!*  
*Gloria Gentry*

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**Gloria Gentry** - December 15, 2020 at 04:52 PM



“ *I had Patricia in my 8th grade social studies class..wonderful student..very conscientious and a lovely young lady who became a terrific teacher at Belaire School...She was a model student and more importantly a better person*

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**Mike Stanton** - December 14, 2020 at 10:04 AM

ML

“ Hey yal, this is Mari Limbough. Mrs, Bailey was a lovely, beautiful woman. She always had a smile for me and a hug. I never saw her very often, but she always remembered me. About 3 to 4 years ago, Shs was living on Moore street. I was having a terrible, rough time of it. One day, as I walked by I saw her outside. She remembered who I was, invited me in for a bit. She is one person that spread so much love, so much good wherever she went, wherever she was. And even thru hardship she raised a good family. Her children are all some of the best people I have ever known. I know Mrs. Bailey will be sorely missed. Good wishes to all yal, Mrs. Bailey's bunch

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**Mari Limbough** - December 13, 2020 at 12:31 PM



“ To Mrs. Bailey and Larry . I speak for me and everyone else in Tullahoma , we are truly sorry for your lose . For years when I overheard someone ask a child in Tullahoma who their teacher was and they said Patricia Baily at Bel - Aire that had the biggest smile on there face and they also had a Glow on there face . A Glow that meant they were special . Even every parent that was there by there child would smile and that Glow about them, . Patricia had a Gift. She was so beautiful and sweet . As an a adult , she was always helping someone in some way . Patricia has made Tullahoma and the World a better place . Chuck Mangino 76

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**Stacy Mangino** - December 12, 2020 at 09:48 AM

NL

“ So sorry to hear of Miss Bailey's passing. She was a wonderful teacher and educator and one of Bel-Aire Elementary School's Best! She was also a wonderful person with a big heart and giving nature. She will be missed by a lot of family and friends. I want to extend my sympathy to her family and friends.

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**Nancy Langford** - December 11, 2020 at 01:09 PM