



Sandra H. Bell

March 12, 1940 - July 28, 2022

On Thursday, July 28, 2022 Sandra Hudson Bell died after being exposed to COVID-19 at Little Creek Sanatorium. She had been a resident at the facility since September, 2020.

Sandra Elaine Hudson was born on March 12, 1940, in Frankford, Delaware. She grew up on a large working farm surrounded by a tight-knit extended family. Her brother Bruce recalled, "Mother and Daddy always put family first. They were the two most altruistic people I've ever known, and Sandra followed in their footsteps. Love of family always came first." She met James W. Bell in Wilmington, Delaware. After they married, they lived briefly in Louisiana, Missouri, before settling in Knoxville, Tennessee. On July 8, they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Sandra will be remembered as a quiet leader with the heart of a servant. Bearden United Methodist Church was her second home, where she helped to organize Wednesday night suppers, rummage sales and bazaars, vacation bible school, and countless other events and gatherings. One friend noted, "I doubt she ever said no when asked to lead or chair an event. Her leadership was firm but quiet. She never needed recognition for the service(s) she so unselfishly volunteered. She was always humble, gracious, and most of all, effective in her role as a leader." She volunteered in the guidance counselor's office at Bearden High School, where students referred to her affectionately as Ma Bell. She was active for many years in the Knoxville Bar Auxiliary. As someone who cared deeply about families and children, she found her true calling as a volunteer with CASA of East Tennessee (Court-Appointed Special Advocates). Sandra lived her best life organizing and presiding over projects and events. One daughter's favorite nickname for her was Julie McCoy, the "cruise director."

Sandra will be remembered as a consummate friend. Her loyalty to and sincere interest in and concern for people culminated in a large social network of friends of all ages. Her friendships were deep and abiding, spanning decades. She loved catching up on what everyone was doing, and Ma Bell knew how to work the phones! Another friend observed, "If you were out with Sandra and she ran into someone she knew, you may as well sit

down or even take a nap, because she was going to visit for a while.” She didn’t know a stranger, and she was never shy about asking for something that she wanted, whether it be a souvenir glass from a German hotel bar or a scholarship for one of her children. She was persistent, courageous, hospitable, and generous. If you showed up at her house, you had better show up hungry. She claimed that her Chex Mix recipe came off the side of the cereal box, but no one has ever replicated her version of it.

Her friends agree, “She was a servant leader but her first service was always to her family, immediate and extended.” Ma Bell was an accepting host who made a home for all in her heart.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Lester and Gertrude Hudson, and sister Lavessa Hudson Mitchell. She is survived by her husband, James (Jim) W. Bell; children, Susan Bell Riordon, Stacy Bell McQuaide (Michael M. McQuaide), Shannon Bell (Christopher White), Jennifer Bell (Joey Hall), Amanda Bell Madson (Andy Madson); grandchildren Emilie, William, Margaret, and Luke; brother, Bruce Hudson; nieces and nephews, Kimberly Blake, Kevin Mitchell, Keith Mitchell, Kelly Ward, Tyler Hudson, and Spencer Hudson.

A Memorial Service will take place on Saturday, August 27, at 2:30 pm at Bearden United Methodist Church, with a reception to follow, and all are invited to join the family in remembering Sandra. Private Interment is at East Tennessee State Veteran's Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to CASA of East Tennessee (casaofeasttn.org, 865-329-3399). Online condolences may be made at rosefuneraltn.com.

Cemetery Details

East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery - Gov. John Sevier Hwy.

2200 E Governor John Sevier Hwy
Knoxville, TN 37920

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG **27**. 2:30 PM (ET)

Bearden United Methodist Church
4407 Sutherland Ave
Knoxville, TN

Tribute Wall



“ *Rose Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Sandra H. Bell*



Rose Mortuary - August 25 at 07:40 PM



“ *113 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Rose Mortuary - August 25 at 07:34 PM



“ *Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Sandra H. Bell.*



August 23 at 08:18 PM



“ *So very sorry for your loss Stacy. You are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. You mom seemed like an amazing woman! Take care and God bless. Deb & Tim Ceraso*

deb ceraso - August 03 at 05:18 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Sandra H. Bell.



August 03 at 01:09 PM

JM

“ My Thoughts & Prayers are with her family. May the wonderful memories of her, help ease your pain.

Jane Patterson Mumford 🙏

Jane Patterson Mumford - August 03 at 09:30 AM

PH

“ Deepest sympathy from a co-worker of Susan Riordon. Mrs. Bell's obituary is beautifully written. The love and care taken in the writing is readily apparent, reflecting her strength and talents used in service to others. The Lord taught us we will find our life if we lose it, urging service to others. Susan's mother surely lived out this teaching.

P. Hines - August 03 at 08:36 AM

KT

Holding you and your family close at this difficult time. Deepest condolences. -David and Kelley Tobin

Kelley Tobin - August 03 at 03:14 PM

BF

Deepest condolences are extended to the entire family. Sandra was a lifetime friend of 70 plus years and I will truly miss her. We had a lot of fond memories along the way and I will cherish each and everyone of them. Also, her obituary was beautiful written.

Barbara J. Furman - August 03 at 09:37 PM

JJ

I am overwhelmed knowing that Sandra has passed away because she is like everyone in her family; she was outstanding like everyone of them. Her mother was also wonderful Along with her brother and the rest of her family. Rest in peace Sandra.

Janet Ellis Justice - August 05 at 12:17 PM

JN

Great memories of multi-talented, special and precious Sandra. She was so easy to love. Ann Jacques Wilson and Julie Jacques Nunley

julie nunley - August 27 at 09:15 AM