



Bessie Mae Walker

OCT 21, 1924 - MAR 5, 2021



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PALATINE - Bessie Mae (Gibson) Walker was born on October 21, 1924 in Brinkley, Arkansas. She was a loving southern bell who was very dedicated to her family and friends. Bessie passed peacefully at home on March 5, 2021. She was predeceased by all three of her husbands, Morris Pattillo, John Paul Harris, Sr., and John N. Walker; her sons, Morris Wayne Pattillo, Paul Douglas Harris, John Paul Harris Jr., and Tommy Harris; her daughters, Lana Yarrington, Glenda Ness, and Patsy Harris. Bessie is survived by her daughter, Fern Kay Harris (Palatine, IL), daughter-in-law, Kathy Harris (Alma, MI) and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was truly loved by all.

Bessie inspired all her children to earn a High School education. She had to drop out of school during the 8th grade but later attended night school in Big Rapids, Michigan earning her high school diploma. She was proud of her children and grandchildren's accomplishments and encouraged all to grow to meet their potential. Bessie was a strong and independent woman. She generally worked out-of-the-home most of her life. Her major career was with Wolverine Worldwide where she began as a seamstress sewing Hush Puppies. Bessie later joined the engineering department and was instrumental in training and developing more efficient production techniques. Her positive and enthusiastic attitude enabled her to make friends and encourage her colleagues to achieve their best. Before retiring, she went to the Philippines providing training in new Wolverine Worldwide plants. She retired in 1986.

During her retirement years, Bessie and her husband, John N. Walker, were very dedicated to helping veterans through the D.A.V. and the Ladies Auxiliary. She was Commander of the Ladies Auxiliary for many years in the Big Rapids Chapter. She led many initiatives to provide support to local Veteran's Hospitals in Northern Michigan.



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Private graveside services will be held August 7, 2021 at Highland View Cemetery in Big Rapids, MI. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be sent to the Disabled American Veterans chapter of your choice. Care and arrangements are entrusted to the Mohnke Funeral Home in Big Rapids. Share a memory or express condolences at mohnkefuneralhome.com.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Bessie by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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