



Mary Louise Tillery Russell

September 14, 1934 - November 20, 2020

MARY LOUISE TILLERY RUSSELL, age 86, of Vestavia Hills, AL, passed away peacefully at home, in her sleep, on Friday, November 20, 2020, surrounded with the love of her family and friends; after her battle with dementia. Mary Louise was born September 14, 1934, at the old UAB Hillman Hospital to Ruby McPhetson Tillery and Clyde Ernest Tillery. She lived most of her childhood in the Norwood division of Birmingham, AL, she met Jimmy Russell in the 4th grade and they graduated from Phillips High School together. She married the love of her life at the age of 15. She was a devoted and caring wife, mother and friend. Her hobbies included spending time at the beach with family and friends, painting art, cooking, sewing, singing, tennis and spending time with grand and great grandchildren. Jimmy passed away in 2018. She is survived by her children: Deborah Lee Grebeldinger (Stevan), James Richard Russell, Jr. (Louise), Elizabeth Rose Russell (Zdenek Buchal), Anne Russell McClain; grandchildren: John Russell Douglas (Tina), Mary Grace Johnsey (John), Melanie Catherine Douglas, Ashley McClain, Jessica Russell, Caleb McClain, Jamie Nicole Roberts (Brock) and James Richard Russell III; great-grandchildren Mykell Prince, Douglas and Taylor Johnsey, and Amelia and Zelda Douglas; numerous nieces and nephews, cousins, and many, many friends from high school and St. Mark Methodist Church. She and Jimmy were charter members of St Mark UMC, Vestavia. She was a member of the St. Mark Ladies Circle, The St. Mark Ladies Lunch Bunch, a choir member at St. Mark, and attended the Lakeshore Bible Study group.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of food or flowers, the family requests donations be made to GBHS and the Alzheimer's Association, which have been set up in memory of Mary Louise Tillery Russell.