



Mrs. Jessie "Jett" Roop

December 19, 1913 - October 26, 2015

Jessie Barnes Roop, one of our region's most "seasoned citizens" passed away on Monday night, following a brief period of intense medical treatment at Atlanta Medical Center in the historic "King District".

Though her heart and soul permeated Bowdon, "The Friendly City" she loved through thick and thin, watching change sweep over it for more than nine decades...her point of departure from this life was fitting in many ways.

Born the same year the sinking of the Titanic was the big story, Ms. Roop (or, as everyone knew her..."Jett") demonstrated a very progressive attitude, following through with personal action during what we all refer to now as "the civil rights" era. But back then, she had precious little company during her sojourns onto the other side of the race barrier. Jett's philanthropy extended far beyond her many well-known (and much appreciated) relationships with such institutions as the Bowdon Historical Society, West Georgia College and her spiritual home, Bowdon Baptist Church. Jett developed relationships with many of the minority employees of her husband, Bill Roop's, business, "Roop Wholesale". Through personal loans and countless "jobs" that showcased her creative and artistic side as well (in other words, work around the yard and garden that didn't really NEED to be done at all, transformed the gift from a handout to a "paycheck").

Her car, which she proudly drove until 90+ years of observing life and watching her family grow and spread throughout the south took its toll and her eyesight began to fail, was a familiar sight in many local neighborhoods that simply didn't enjoy many visits from upper-middle class southern gentlewomen. She did not live in fear...her doors were rarely locked...her trust in the basic "good" inherent in all people shone like sunbeams through storm-broken clouds.

She traveled. With her husband, her oldest son, friends of all ages and walks of life. Safaris in Africa, riding elephants in India, river cruises into the heart of the 50th state...still untamed Alaska...and all over Europe, England and the Americas, she explored the sights and sounds, but especially the people, she found there.

But HOME was where her giving took place. Right up to the present. The lone survivor of the Bowdon Women's Club, she only recently signed property that the lady's early business savvy, a rare commodity in the male-dominated world of finance and real estate more than a half-century ago, acquired and owned by the organization to the city of Bowdon, finally make its "Freedom Park" a reality, giving the town square a facelift and a place to meet in the open air.

The last living graduate of Bowdon College, Jett was an educated woman and could easily have provided a comfortable life for herself. But raised in classic southern style, she remained home with the children as her husband filled the role of breadwinner and head of the household.

And NOTHING made her happier than being surrounded by those children: David Roop, her eldest, who preceded her in death last September. Her oldest daughter Peggy Crawford, who broke glass ceilings herself by rising from teller to loan manager to President of one of the Southeast's most successful,

small private banks. And her youngest daughter Patti Roop, born in Jett's 40th year on the planet. As was often the case then with pregnancy among women of advanced age, Patti was born with physical and mental differences that, again, at that time, were not as generally accepted, therefore not seen, as often as they are today. But she refused to be bullied or swayed and brought her daughter home, where she was as much a part of the fast growing family as any other member, accompanying them on each and every outing. Jett and Pattie were independent women, right up until the day of her passing... roommates who leaned on each other, continuing to build the only "home" either was to accept.

An accomplished pianist, Jessie played for church services, community gatherings and at least one grandson's wedding, leaving guests tapping their feet to the swinging sounds of boogie-woogie. Her musical inclinations were still on display during her 100th Birthday Party at the meeting place, just shy of two years ago. Once she was beckoned to the dance floor, she didn't leave until several younger couples called it a night.

She was proud of her award winning, front yard Rose Garden and civic beautification efforts...her active membership in the "As You Like It" Club, Bridge Club. She was, rightfully, quite pleased with her verified hole-in-one at the Sunset Hills Golf Course, as well as her key to the city, recently awarded.

Preceded in death by her husband Bill, her son David, her parents, William J. Barnes and Lula Huey Barnes, brothers Stacey and Carl Barnes and sister Carrie Barnes Alford.

Survivors include her daughters Patti and Peggy, married to Keith Crawford as well as her perpetually active daughter-in-law, Nelva Garret Roop, David's widow.

Her home overflowed with pictures of her, grandchildren, Craig and Cindy Roop, Lance and Dale Roop, Keith and Marie Roop, Jeff and Rebecca Styles and Diane Styles Smith.

And perhaps she viewed her own greatest, single accomplishment, to be the bouncing bunch of great-grandchildren that brought her such joy, Jett Roop, Hunter Roop, Sydney Roop, Billy Jack Roop, Allie J.Roop, Eli Durham-Styles, Lucas Durham-Styles, Payton Smith and Anna Smith.

If there has ever been a woman more loved and respected, in any small southern town, anywhere, she can only count herself very lucky. Because “Mama Jett” leaves nothing behind but a world made better by her presence, an unusually strong family who (despite some trying and interesting side roads taken by wayward sheep from time to time) will miss her more than words can say. From doctors to dairymen, media personalities to teachers, flight attendants to bank Presidents, she was the magnetic core of a swirling solar system of people who love life and embrace it the way she did. She could be a non-nonsense, stoic matriarch, who embodied southern womanhood...the legendary “steel magnolia”. But she never lost the ability to laugh, learn or love. She was the word “class” embodied.

Visitation will be Thursday, 10/29, from 4-7 at Rainwater Funeral Home.

Funeral service will be at Bowdon Baptist Church at 11am, Friday, 10/30.

There will be no graveside service.

Flowers will be graciously accepted. But in lieu of flower, please make a donation to the Bowdon Baptist Church.

For those interested, there was a short, amateur documentary focusing on her life, produced as a gift on her 80th birthday...as well as a short video of her 100th birthday party...both of which you can view at your leisure. Look for their links, or on-line addresses, in the foyer area as you leave today.

Cemetery Details

Bowdon City Cemetery

Johnson Street
Bowdon, GA 30108

Previous Events

Service

OCT **29**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bowdon Baptist Church
205 Mill Street
Bowdon, GA 30108

Visitation

OCT **29**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Rainwater Funeral Home
317 North Carroll Street
Bowdon, GA 30108
(770) 258-7239
info@rainwaterfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rainwaterfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall

PW

“ I would like to offer my condolences to the Roop family and may God be a refuge and strength in your time of distress. (Psalms 46:1)



P. Watts - November 05, 2015 at 10:28 AM

SR

“ Sarah Richardson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jessie "Jett" Roop



Sarah Richardson - October 29, 2015 at 06:17 PM

RM

“ Ray And Sylvia McNeil lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jessie "Jett" Roop



Ray and Sylvia McNeil - October 29, 2015 at 04:33 PM



“ 36 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Rainwater Funeral Home - October 29, 2015 at 11:05 AM

CE

“ *Charles And Kathryn Echols lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jessie "Jett" Roop*



Charles and Kathryn Echols - October 29, 2015 at 10:15 AM

JT

“ *Jan Turner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jessie "Jett" Roop*



Jan Turner - October 29, 2015 at 05:57 AM

PS

“ *Payton Smith lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jessie "Jett" Roop*



Payton Smith - October 28, 2015 at 11:50 PM

DA

“ *Diane, Payton And AnnaGrace lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jessie "Jett" Roop*



Diane, Payton and AnnaGrace - October 28, 2015 at 11:49 PM

KM

“ *Karen McCaghren lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jessie "Jett" Roop*



Karen McCaghren - October 28, 2015 at 09:34 PM

GS

“ *She was one sweet lady and what a life!*



Gerald Sherry Scales - October 28, 2015 at 09:21 PM

LW

“ *Linda Williams lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jessie "Jett" Roop*



Linda Williams - October 28, 2015 at 08:48 PM

BS

“ *So Sorry for your loss.*

Barry Snow - October 28, 2015 at 07:14 PM

KP

“ *Deepest sympathy to the Roop Family.
Kathy Pamperien, Holly Romines Willard, and Tara Romines
Ferguson
Springfield, MO*

Kathy Pamperien - October 28, 2015 at 06:02 PM

BH

“ *I am totally blown away, this is without a doubt, the most beautiful
eulogy I have ever heard.
I feel so honored to have known this magnificently beautiful lady for
the last 15 years. We shared some great times together and I will
miss her terribly.
My prayers and thoughts go out to her family.
Rest in peace sweet Jett.*

Brenda Hilton - October 28, 2015 at 02:46 PM

RL

“ *Rafael Lancaster lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jessie "Jett" Roop*



Rafael Lancaster - October 28, 2015 at 10:39 AM

RL

In heaven she will be received, for now she hears the angels sing.

Rafael Lancaster - October 28, 2015 at 10:41 AM

EP

“ *Edith Powers lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jessie "Jett" Roop*



Edith Powers - October 28, 2015 at 08:19 AM

EP

“ *Edith Powers lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jessie "Jett" Roop*



Edith Powers - October 28, 2015 at 08:08 AM

JM

“ *Janie Meadows lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jessie "Jett" Roop*



Janie Meadows - October 28, 2015 at 07:36 AM

KP

“ *Deepest sympathy to the family in the passing of "Mama Jett"!*

Kathy Pamperien, Holly Romines Willard and Tara Romines Ferguson



kathy Pamperien - October 27, 2015 at 09:21 PM

VH

“ *Virginia Head lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jessie "Jett" Roop*



Virginia Head - October 27, 2015 at 09:06 PM

PT

“ *Paula Tant lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jessie "Jett" Roop*



Paula Tant - October 27, 2015 at 08:18 PM

PA

“ *Patty Akin lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jessie "Jett" Roop*



Patty Akin - October 27, 2015 at 07:38 PM

KP

“ *We have a heavy heart to hear of the passing of "Mama Jett". She was such a beautiful, talented and true Southern lady. Blessing and love to her family.*

Kathy Pamperien (Springfield, MO)
Holly Romines Willard (Springfield, MO)
Tara Romines Ferguson (Springfield, MO)

Kathy Pamperien - October 27, 2015 at 05:50 PM

DA

“ *Danny &Phyllis Andrews lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jessie "Jett" Roop*



Danny &Phyllis Andrews - October 27, 2015 at 04:34 PM