



Wilma Joyce Bailey

February 17, 1924 - September 6, 2021

WILMA JOYCE BAILEY
NEW HARMONY, INDIANA

On September 6, 2021, the Charles Ford Community said goodbye to its last remaining “lifetime legacy lady”. Wilma Joyce Bailey of New Harmony, Indiana passed away peacefully at the age of 97 years, surrounded by her Ford Home family. Wilma was an iconic resident in the Charles Ford Retirement Community for over 33 years where she won the hearts of everyone with her attention to holiday decorating details, care for the birds outside her window, and concern for others who passed in and out of her life at the home.

After a successful career in cosmetology owning her own beauty shop, Wilma made the move in 1986 at the age of 62 to the resident home under the old plan as a ‘legacy’ resident. The last of her kind, she turned over all her personal assets to the home and they in turn became her family, taking care of her every need for over three decades. Wilma is survived by countless friends whose lives she touched through her interests in crafting, decorating, sewing, flower gardening, birdwatching and walking around the park. She enjoyed hosting annual celebrations at Christmas with the “walking girls” in her Ford Home apartment offering each one a handmade ornament as a memento. A special highlight was a trip taken with a few other residents to Florida a few years ago, accompanied by staff members, to enjoy some days of sand and sunshine and the chance to dip her feet in the ocean for the first time. She proudly wore the pilot wings she was given by the crew for taking her first flight at 92 years old!

Wilma Joyce was predeceased by her loving parents: Myron and Elsie (Wardelman) Bailey; cousins: Jack Garrett, Martin Garrett, and Jean Garrett Shane. She was born February 17, 1924 and spent some of her early childhood in Flint, Michigan before her family moved to Illinois and then later, settled into New Harmony. Wilma Joyce loved New Harmony and New Harmony loved her. She said New Harmony just felt like “home” compared to any other place.

Wilma enjoyed sharing her childhood memories with residents and visitors. She loved to spend time with her father and skate with him and she said he was very skilled at it. From

her mother, she learned to sew and make handicrafts and holiday decorations. As a child, she was thrilled to get to help with table decorations at parties from time to time. The “Chief Holiday Decorator” for the assisted living facility, Wilma had a white artificial tree in the dining room that she changed with every holiday. It would be festooned with hearts and red ribbons on Valentine’s Day, sported shamrocks and St. Patrick’s Day green, Easter eggs, Fourth of July flags, Autumn leaves, Halloween spirits, and Christmas themes to mark the passing year. Her unique collection of antique valentines were displayed in the dining room area.

The busy nonagenarian put up colorful posters and garlands around the premises in each holiday theme to make the place comfortable and “homey”. No matter what the weather, she was always wearing her usual capri pants and comfortable shoes padding around the residence indoors and also outdoors to fill the feeders for her beloved spring migrants.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, September 17, 2021, at Maple Hill Cemetery in New Harmony, Indiana. Friends may gather beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Memorial Donations may be made in honor of Wilma Joyce Bailey to: Life Enrichment Program of the Charles Ford Retirement Community, 920 Main Street, New Harmony, Indiana 47631. Donations may also be directed to the New Harmony Chapter of Tri Kappa, an organization she was president of on multiple occasions or to the Garden Club of New Harmony, which she supported.

The Charles Ford family wishes to send a special thank you to the staff at Heritage Hospice, Deaconess Hospital Midtown and Dr. Joseph Lee for their care and compassion during her last days in this life.

Cemetery Details

Maple Hill Cemetery

5890 Maple Hill Road
New Harmony, IN 47631

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 17. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Maple Hill Cemetery
5890 Maple Hill Road
New Harmony, IN 47631

Graveside Service

SEP 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

Maple Hill Cemetery
5890 Maple Hill Road
New Harmony, IN 47631

Tribute Wall



“ *Wilma Joyce Bailey*

October 06, 2023 at 09:05 AM



“ *Wilma you are gonna be missed, so glad for the few yrs I got to help you decorate and get to see all the beautiful pieces you have made through the years, thanks again for letting me help, you will never be forgotten. Kathy Wiltshire*

Kathy Wiltshire - September 13, 2021 at 09:27 PM



“ *Wilma Joyce will be greatly missed by all who shared her life. It was always a special treat to get to visit with her when I came to see my sister Marilyn Cox, Betty Fisher and all the other ladies -to enjoy meals with them and the open house time at Christmas. to New Harmony and the Ford Home along with her family my prayers and sympathy to each one*

Ruth Ann Hames Grebe - September 11, 2021 at 02:41 PM