



Elizabeth Berry Biddle

April 5, 1930 - February 15, 2022

Elizabeth (Nena) Berry Biddle

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Nena was the daughter of Elizabeth and J. H. Berry. She was born and grew up in North Birmingham and later moved to Gardendale, Alabama. She graduated from Phillips High School in 1947 and Birmingham Southern College, where she was a member of Kappa Delta sorority, in 1951.

Nena married her high school sweetheart, Jack Biddle III, after graduation. They would have been married 70 years on March 28th. They shared a beautiful love story even to the end as Jack was her primary caregiver during these last few years. Nena's dedication and love to her family, especially to her devoted husband, was evident in her every word and deed.

Nena taught 5th grade at North Birmingham Elementary School before moving to Arthur School. She was a beloved teacher for 30 years, and to this day her former students still reach out with stories and moments remembered from years ago with their favorite teacher, Mrs. Biddle.

Her passion in life was improving mental health services in Alabama.

Alongside her husband, Senator Jack Biddle, Nena saw many measures passed to help those in need and brought tremendous attention to the matter of mental health. Nena served on the Board of Directors of the Jefferson Blount St. Clair (JBS) Mental Health Authority for 28 years.

Nena Biddle was appointed by Governor Don Siegelman and later by

Governor Bob Riley to serve on the Board of Trustees for the State of Alabama Department of Mental Health. Nena truly devoted a major portion of her life to improving the opportunities available to those struggling with mental illness. This is particularly evident with her involvement with the 1920 Club, which is a member-run drop-in center for people in recovery from mental health illness. The Alabama Department of Mental Health honored Nena and Jack Biddle's tireless work by naming the 1920 Club building located on Birmingham's Southside The Jack and Nena Biddle Building.

Nena was a member, as well as a former president, of the Legislative Spouses Association. She served during her husband Jack's tenure in both the State House of Representative and the State Senate. Small in stature but large in heart and determination, Nena led well no matter the role.

The City of Gardendale honored Nena as the Gardendale Citizen of the Year in 1997 for her unselfish service and dedication to a city that she held dear. She was deeply loved in her community, with many saying that they had never met anyone as kind as Nena Biddle.

Nena was a lifelong member of Gardendale Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church (now Hope Community Church). She was a member and teacher of the Fellowship Sunday School Class, as well as a member of the Lenora Holt circle. She loved Jesus and served Him faithfully. Nena exemplified Christ-likeness on a constant basis. Ask anyone who met her and all will agree, she was a living example of Galatians 5:22-23: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." Those who had the privilege of knowing Nena are fully aware that this verse from scripture describes no one more than Nena Biddle. The mark that Nena left on this earth is one of kindness and gentleness, and all who met her are better for it.

Nena is survived by her husband, Jack Biddle III. She is also survived by her two children, John Biddle (Janet) and Carolyn Jan Biddle. Nena has two grandchildren, John Berry Biddle Jr. (Kristy) and Brooke Biddle. Nena has four great grandchildren, Jack, Will, Sam and Annaleigh Biddle. Nena is also

survived by her sister, Carolyn Bragg, and several nieces and nephews. Visitation will be Friday, February 18th, from 11:00 to 1:00 at Gardendale Heritage Funeral Home with the service starting at 1:00. Interment will be immediately following at Oakwood Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers the family asks donations be made to JBS Mental Health Authority, 940 Montclair Rd # 200, Birmingham, AL, 35213.

Cemetery Details

Oakwood Memorial Gardens

2100 Moncrief Rd
Gardendale, AL 35071

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 18. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Gardendale Heritage Funeral Home
2214 Decatur Highway
Gardendale, AL 35071
(205) 631-8810
gardendalefuneralhome2@gmail.com

Celebration of Life

FEB 18. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Gardendale Heritage Funeral Home
2214 Decatur Highway
Gardendale
Gardendale, AL 35071

Tribute Wall

LA

“ *Senator Biddle - I am so sorry I could not be with you and your precious family to honor Nena's memory and to support you and yours as you said goodbye. God blessed me truly when he brought you and Nena into my life, and I will always cherish our friendship and the wonderful memories with you and Nena. She was the sweetest lady I have ever met, and she always put others first. I don't think I have ever seen anyone more devoted to her family, and it showed in how she loved you all. She took such good care of you all, but especially Jan. There are so many things I will remember about her, but one of my most cherished memories is of the day that Ruth and I spent with you all at your beautiful home. Nena had prepared the most delicious meal, and she was so proud as she showed us through your beautiful house. Nena's beautiful heart shone brightly, and we can all rejoice in knowing that she has a new body and is now in the presence of God and we will see her again one day. I loved the pictures in the Life Tribute album. It is apparent from the pictures that as Nena aged, she became more beautiful. Please know how much I loved Nena, and I love the Biddle family. You all hold a special place in my heart! I am praying for you all during this sad time. The world is a better place because of Nena Berry Biddle.*

Linda Christy, Montgomery, AL - March 21, 2022 at 09:17 PM

LC

Linda Christy, Montgomery, AL not Linda Montgomery

Linda Christy - March 21, 2022 at 09:18 PM



“ Thank you Nina for being such a wonderful human being. I consider the times we spent together a blessing for me. May your memory be a blessing to all that knew you. Ann Denbo

AnnDenbo - February 19, 2022 at 04:28 PM



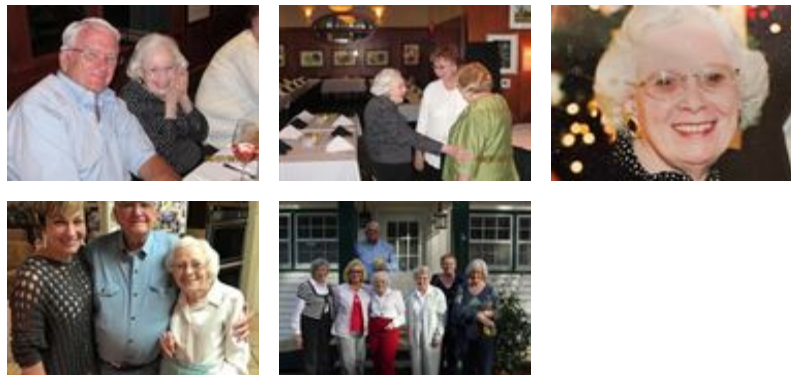
“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Berry Biddle.



February 17, 2022 at 07:58 PM



“ 51 files added to the album Life Tributes



Gardendale Heritage Funeral Home - February 17, 2022 at 04:29 PM

KS

“ I got to know Nena during my tenure as Mental Health Commissioner. I cherished her warm encouragement as we struggled to meet many complex needs. With a smile, she helped us to know that we could do whatever was needed. A sincere appreciation for her many contributions. She touched many lives !!

Kathy Sawyer - February 17, 2022 at 02:58 PM

SB

“ We at NAMI Birmingham cannot imagine this world without Miss Nena in it. Miss Nena always had a beautiful smile, a welcoming heart, and a great soul as she served her fellow men and women in her community and during her full and accomplished life. I was lucky enough to serve with her on the JBS Mental Health Authority Board for 12 years. She was one of my mentors who showed me a true example of kindness in her leadership and advocacy work. She was one of the happiest people I have ever known. God Bless her and her family during this sad time. Susan Baty-Pierce

Susan Baty-Pierce - February 16, 2022 at 07:31 PM