



Billie Joyce Spake

February 19, 1941 - April 1, 2026

It is with great sadness that the family of Billie Joyce Bunn Spake, 85, of Asheville, NC, announce her passing on the afternoon of Wednesday April 1, 2026 at John F. Keever Solace Center operated by CarePartners Hospice, after experiencing a stroke.

Joyce was born on February 19, 1941 in Asheville. She was a proud member of the First Families of Old Buncombe as a descendant of one of the founding families of Asheville, the Patton family. While growing up in her grandmother Zannie Case's house in West Asheville, one of her fondest memories of her childhood was walking to the Malvern Hills Pool with her beloved cousins, Barbara & Brenda, and then visiting a Haywood Road grocery store owned by her great-aunt & great-uncle on the way home for candy.

After Joyce graduated from Lee Edwards High School (now known as Asheville High) in 1960, Joyce worked for the Asheville Citizen-Times in the circulation department until the birth of her son.

Joyce was an almost lifelong member of the Grand Chapter of NC Order of the Eastern Star – District #16 in Biltmore.

Joyce was preceded in death by her husband of 61 years, John Thomas "Johnny" Spake Jr.; her mother, Martha Case Stirewalt; her father, William "Billy" Burgin Bunn; and her stepfather, Fredrick "Fred" Fletcher Stirewalt. She is survived by her son, John David Spake; two grandsons, Walden Alexander "Alex" Spake and Oliver Seabury Spake and their mother, Holli Alexandra Towe; a newborn great-grandson, Navy Alexander Spake; along

her two brother in-laws, Winston “Rusty” Walden Pulliam Jr. and Lawrence “Larry” Calvin Pulliam – all of Asheville.

The family would like to thank Dr. Rick Arwood and his nurse, Karly Frizzell, of Blue Ridge Premier Medicine, Joyce’s irreplaceable primary care providers. The family will be forever grateful for Rick & Karly for their support and guidance.

The family will have a private graveside service and in lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to The Givens Communities Ministries fund for the care & preservation of the Norma F. Pulliam Chapel at Givens Estates via Givens Development, 2360 Sweeten Creek Road, Asheville, NC 28803 (828-771-2649), www.givenscommunities.org/giving/ or to ABBCM, 1854 Brevard Road, Arden, NC 28704 (828-259-5300) www.abccm.org/donations-listing/ .

Tribute Wall

CP

“ *Sending our deepest condolences to John and the family from the Cordells.*

Cindy Cordell Peoples - April 09 at 08:53 AM

GB

“ *I am a cousin from the Florida family. My memories of Billie Joyce are all good ones, time spent with loving family. Love you Billie Joyce. I will miss you.*

Gayle Briske - April 06 at 06:56 PM

BP

“ My sister Barbara and I, were blessed to have shared so much of our childhood and youth with Billie Joyce. It’s true we spent many a summer day walking from Mama Case’s home to Malvern Hills pool. I was a couple of years younger than them, and I am fairly certain the condition they had to agree to, in order to go to the pool was to take me along.

I would often spend the night at Mama Case’s house. On hot afternoons of summer, when every door and window in the house was open so that slight breezes would trick us into thinking we were cool.

During those afternoons, Mama Case would be watching her soap opera..Billie Joyce decided to teach me to play “ hearts”. It took me years to figure out that game didn’t require pennies to play even though Billie Joyce aka Maverick said I would have to raid my piggy bank in order to play!😂

Our childhood and youth filled with wonderful moments and memories.

Barbara and I never really thought of Billie Joyce as a cousin. We thought of her as a sister. She was loving and generous. She taught us to treasure our family. We treasure her memory. See you later Cuz!

Brenda Pace - April 05 at 04:48 PM

ED

“ Billie Joyce and I graduated from high school together. We had so many good times together and so many sweet memories. My husband graduated from High School with Johnny so we double-dated at times. She will be missed by her family and by her cousins, Barbara Kanipe and Brenda Pace who maintained close contact with her until she passed away. We wish condolences to all the family. Billie Joyce is now at peace.

Elaine Duncan - April 04 at 11:24 AM

SW

“ Billy Joyce was my second cousin. I have so many memories of her when I was a child and I would visit Asheville and spend summers with family there. I haven't seen Billy Joyce since a family reunion in the early 2000s. At that time, she still looked the same...really pretty and petite. As a preteen I remember keeping up with John or “John John” as he was called. He was such a cute little boy and I remember he liked to wear cowboy boots all the time. Time goes by so fast. It is my prayer that God will provide his comfort to Billy Joyce's family. I would like to extend that comfort to my second cousins Barbara and Brenda as I'm pretty sure they all grew up together. May Billy Joyce find rest in the loving arms of our Lord.

Susan Hartley Woodward - April 03 at 08:19 PM

SA

“ Billie Joyce and I are first cousins and during World War II we lived in the same house because her dad was called to serve in the military. We had so many good times together, One day during nap time (when we were about 5) we decided to take the Christmas bulbs on the tree and fill them with water from the radiator and throw them across the room. Our Mothers didn't think it was funny although they couldn't help but laugh, After we moved away from Ashville, my first airplane ride was when I was 11 when I flew back to visit her family. I spent many summers with her family and after she married Johnny they would come to Florida and I would visit them in Ashville. She was always so much fun to be around, she would keep you laughing about something. She will be dearly missed.

Steve Adams - April 03 at 02:27 PM

KE

“ Ms Joyce was a very sweet lady. I was her hairdresser at Givens Gerber & really enjoyed her .She was a joy to be around she maded us all laugh all the time with her funny stories. She & I both had the same birthday dates we had a party this past year & she had the best time!!! I will cherish my Beautiful memories!!!❤️



Kathie Earley - April 02 at 10:31 PM

MG

“ Melinda Gostomske lit a candle in memory of Billie Joyce Spake



Melinda Gostomske - April 02 at 10:17 PM

MG

“ Joyce was a sweet lady i lived in her community at Givens she always made me laugh she will be missed prayers to her family

Melinda Gostomske - April 02 at 10:17 PM