



Claire Etheridge Bumgardner

August 28, 1926 - April 11, 2026

Claire Etheridge Bumgardner, age 99, of Athens, Alabama, passed away at her residence on Saturday, April 11th, 2026. She was born in Earle, Arkansas on August 28th, 1926, to Leonard Etheridge and Era Neal Etheridge.

She is survived by her son, Dr. David Paul Bumgardner (Kerry); daughter, Bonnie Claire White (Harrison); grandchildren, Shelley Hollan, Lisa Comfort (Josh), Stewart White (Candace), Satya Lee, Christopher Bumgardner (Maureen), Joshua Bumgardner (Tanara), and Sara Slagel (Nick); 9 great grandchildren; and 1 great great grandchild.

She is preceded in death by her husband of 61 years, James "Paul" Bumgardner; her parents; and siblings, Evelyn Garris (Marvin), Leon Etheridge (Roberta), Col. Wade Etheridge MD (Anne Marie) and Dimple Clark (Jewel).

A visitation will be held on Saturday, April 18th, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. at Limestone Chapel Funeral Home with the funeral service beginning at 2:30 p.m. in the funeral home chapel, with Joe Teal and Neal Johnson officiating. Interment will follow at Roselawn Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Christopher Bumgardner, Joshua Bumgardner, William Morton, Richard Morton, Joshua Sharit, Ben Morton, and Jacob Epperson.

Mrs. Bumgardner loved flowers and gardening and was a longtime member of The Glen Augur Garden Club. With a passion for the Lord, she worshipped and served at First Baptist of Athens since 1958. She was also an avid reader and spent as much time as she could immersed in a good book. Many will remember her from her working at the U.S. Army Missile Command, Redstone Arsenal, for over 20 years. The family asks in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to Hospice of Limestone County.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 18. 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM (CT)

Limestone Chapel Funeral Home
322 Hwy. 31 N.
Athens, AL 35611
(256) 232-1051
info@limestonechapel.com
<https://www.limestonechapel.com/>

Funeral Service

APR 18. 2:30 PM (CT)

Limestone Chapel Funeral Home
322 Hwy. 31 N.
Athens, AL 35611
(256) 232-1051
info@limestonechapel.com
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Burial

APR 18 (CT)

Roselawn Cemetery
523 US Hwy 31 South
Athens, AL 35611

Tribute Wall

LJ

“ *Lois Johnson lit a candle in memory of Claire Bumgardner*



Lois Johnson - April 15 at 09:41 PM

MS

“ *Marene S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Claire Etheridge Bumgardner.*

Marene S. - April 15 at 09:29 AM

MS

“ *Marene S. purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Claire Etheridge Bumgardner.*



Marene S. - April 15 at 09:29 AM

LB

“ *Lillian B. purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Claire Etheridge Bumgardner.*



Lillian B. - April 14 at 03:26 PM

JT

“ Jeannine Carter & Sheila Tucker purchased the *Enchanted Cottage* for the family of Claire Etheridge Bumgardner.



Jeannine Carter & Sheila Tucker - April 13 at 04:46 PM

LM

“ Linda Bumgardner & Marci Mathis purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Claire Etheridge Bumgardner.



Linda Bumgardner & Marci Mathis - April 13 at 04:10 PM

TB

“ Tammy Brooks purchased the *Full Of Love Bouquet* for the family of Claire Etheridge Bumgardner.



Tammy Brooks - April 12 at 06:36 PM