



## Mrs. Elleen Parsons

October 7, 1923 - January 15, 2017

Mrs. Elleen Parsons, age 93, of Shelbyville, passed away Sunday, January 15, 2017.

Funeral services will be 11 AM Tuesday at First United Methodist Church, in Shelbyville. Reverend Lanita Monroe will officiate.

The family will receive visitors one hour prior to service at the church.

Burial will be 11 AM Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at Andrews Chapel Methodist Church Cemetery in Huntersville, Tennessee. Reverend Gradye M. Parsons will officiate. The family will receive visitors beginning at 10 AM Thursday at the Andrews Chapel Methodist Church.

Elleen Meriwether was born on October 7, 1923, to parents William and Eloise Meriwether. She grew up in the farming community of Huntersville, Tennessee, surrounded by grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, and cotton. After high school, she briefly attended the University of Tennessee. She returned to Jackson and worked as the secretary to the school superintendent. It was during that chapter of her life that she met Harry Parsons, who was attending Union University on the GI bill. They married in 1951 and began their life together in Shelbyville. Gradye came along first, followed by Petey. In between those two births she began her multi decade career as a secretary at Arnold Engineering Development Center. Upon her retirement, her engineering colleagues gave her an honorary doctorate for teaching two generations of engineers how to write a sentence.

She was a devoted wife to Harry and a strong and caring mother. She was a very faithful daughter to her mother, and they would talk every Sunday morning at 8 am. She was a strong believer in education and returned to school when her sons were in college, receiving an associate's degree from Motlow, while still working. She also supported her two daughters in law in their post graduate degrees.

She became a widow at age 56 and filled those years with work, home improvements, travel, books, flower and grandchildren. She thought travel was so important to a person's education, that she financed at least one international trip for each of her grandchildren. She read constantly and gave talks to various groups about the books she had read. She said "They will only listen for about fifteen minutes, so you have to be succinct". She played a lot of bridge. She loved to watch the Lady Vols and Tiger Wood.

She was life long Methodist. She was faithful to the guild, taught Sunday school, and until recent years could be found in the third pew from the front on the right side of the sanctuary.

Ellen had many favorite saying:

- 1) When faced with obstacles "You just had to go ahead on"
- 2) When talking about the future "as long as your shoes were pointed in the right direction you would be ok"
- 3) When starting a trip or an adventure "make a good memory for yourself" and now she has done that for us all

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by three brothers, William Meriwether, Henning Meriwether, and JH Meriwether, and a sister, Virginia.

Survivors include two sons, Gradye M. Parsons, and his wife Kathy, of Kodak, Tennessee and Harry M. "Petey" Parsons, and his wife Sherry, of Franklin; grandchildren, Joshua D. Parsons, Rachel Erin Parsons-Wells, Amanda Faith Parsons, and Patrick Harry Parsons; great grandchildren, Jacob Dylan Parsons-Wells, Elliana Parsons, and Adelynn Parsons.

Memorials may be made to: Shelbyville Bedford County Library or First United Methodist Church.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with arrangements.

# Comments

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“ I am sorry to hear about your mother, you and your family are in my prayers

**Wilma Scott** - January 17, 2017 at 07:36 AM

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“ April Bielser - Eibling lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Elleen Parsons



**April Bielser - Eibling** - January 16, 2017 at 11:04 PM

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“ My name is April Bielser & I'm a tech @ Carriage House . I had the pleasure of caring for Miss Parsons. The kind person that she was. The stories about her life & travels that she made. She will b missed & loved dearly.

**April Bielser - Eibling** - January 16, 2017 at 11:03 PM

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“ My name is lisa ferrell i am a tech for carriage house i got the honor of caring for ms parsons she was a joy to be around if i was ever sad or she always told me to smile and to always be kind to everyone no matter how they acted toward me she loved watching foot ball she loved her morning cofee im going to miss ms parsons vey much

**Lisa Marie** - January 16, 2017 at 03:30 PM



“ Thank you for your kind words, Lisa Marie. My grandmother loved people and always wanted people to smile and be happy. Thank you for loving her. I know she was happy and well-cared for with you all on a daily basis.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Parsons

**Amanda** - January 16, 2017 at 05:48 PM



“ That was very sweet thank you

**Lisa** - January 17, 2017 at 06:36 AM



“ Grayde, May God's Blessings rain down on you and your entire family during this time.

**Cindy Ealy** - January 17, 2017 at 10:22 AM



“ My name is Jennifer I m a tech at the hospital I had the pleasure of taking care of Mrs, Parsons recently until she passed away. She was a wonderful lady and I am glad I got the opportunity to care for her.

**jennifer** - January 18, 2017 at 01:21 PM