



## Billie Johns

November 13, 1929 - January 26, 2026

Today, we gather with heavy hearts, but also with gratitude and hope, to celebrate the life of, Billie Johns.

Billie left her earthly home around midnight on a cold, snowy night on January 25th, and she stepped into her beautiful heavenly home. While our family—, Barry and Gloria Johns; my brother Ryan and Jennifer, Ashley and Ray; Scarlett; and Ryan's girls, Taylor, Emma, Elle, and Abby—are heartbroken, we take comfort in knowing exactly where she is. Billie would want us to rejoice, because her faith tells us this is not the end, but a homecoming.

Billie was 96 years old, a daughter of the late Bernie and Della Sword; and a sister to the late Justine Sword; with a sharp mind and a wonderful sense of humor. To know her was truly to love her. She was the light of our lives, and she will be missed more than words can ever explain.

Her love for the Lord shined through her in everything she did. She was a fighter and never feared anything. Billie went through unimaginable things in her life, yet no matter what she faced, she kept going. She taught us what it meant to persevere with grace and faith. No matter the circumstances, she trusted God.

In 2015, Billie suffered a stroke that left her paralyzed in her legs and confined to a wheelchair—but that did not defeat her. She didn't give up. She simply rolled on. When grandad, Reo Johns, passed away, we worried grief might overwhelm her, but it didn't. Her deep and rooted faith carried her through. Like the Apostle Paul, she learned to be content no matter what state she was

in.

Billie was the kindest, most warm-hearted woman I've ever known. No matter who you were, what you looked like, or what you had done, she always saw the good in people. That's what made her not only beautiful on the outside, but even more beautiful on the inside.

For 11 years, Billie lived at Cedar Creek in Pikeville—not because she had to, but because she wanted to. She loved being there where she could attend church regularly, sing, and enjoy fellowship. Anyone who knew her there will tell you—Billie was the life of the party. She uplifted others simply by being herself. She bloomed exactly where she was planted, and in doing so, she touched so many lives.

Billie had a deep love for music, especially worship music. She had a beautiful singing voice and loved to praise the Lord. She also loved dressing up—especially for holidays—and if you knew her, you knew she was always working on a craft. She adored Snapchat filters, her big derby hats, and of course, she never went anywhere without her red lipstick, her hair done, and her nails just right. That was Billie—full of joy, personality, and life.

Since her last hospital stay, Billie lived with Barry and Gloria, and we were blessed to celebrate her birthday, Thanksgiving, and Christmas together. Those moments were precious beyond measure. Just four days before she passed, she enjoyed a visit with her pastor and church friends. They sang her favorite hymns, read scripture, held hands, and prayed together. To me, that was her funeral—and she got to attend it.

Today, I know she's walking the streets of gold, telling Granddad everything he's missed. Truly, Billie fought a good fight, finished her course, and kept the faith. Though we have lost our greatest advocate and prayer warrior here on earth, her faith, her love, and the lessons she poured into us will live on forever.

This isn't goodbye, Billie. It's simply, I'll see you later.

Entombment will be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at the York Mausoleum at Johnson Memorial Park in Pikeville.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Virgie Baptist Church, PO Box 223, Virgie, KY 41572.

# Cemetery Details

## York Mausoleum

Pikeville, KY 41501

# Previous Events

## Entombment

JAN 27. 2:00 PM (ET)

York Mausoleum  
Pikeville, KY 41501

# Tribute Wall

MC

“ I’m so sorry to hear of the death of Billie. My mother lived in the room beside of Billie for a year at Cedar Creek. I will always remember how happy and uplifting she was to those around her, especially to my mother. She had the best sense of humor and loved making others laugh. I know she will be greatly missed.

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**Melissa Childress** - April 05 at 06:45 PM

DS

“ I am so saddened to hear that Billie passed last Sunday night during the snow storm. I got to know her the past few years at Cedar Creek when visiting my mother. She always had a smile and a joke to share. My favorite was the one about the cereal killer. She will be missed by all of her friends at Cedar Creek. Condolences to her family. She got her wings and is singing those hymns she loved in heaven. RIP

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**Dave Sullivan** - January 28 at 05:10 PM

MW

“ Im truly sorry for your loss..Aunt Billie was a beautiful lady with a beautiful smile, life of the party..She was a people person for sure..Aunt Billie and Uncle Reo were both there for me and my baby sister when mom passed. They made us feel safe and loved. Barry and Gloria and family I'm so sorry for your loss..I'm heart broken over losing her.But I know she's in heaven rejoicing and celebrating she's at peace..



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**Maxie Allene Webber** - January 28 at 09:46 AM

VK

“ Vanessa Wright Kelly lit a candle in memory of Billie Johns



Vanessa Wright Kelly - January 28 at 09:28 AM

LF

“ Sorry for your family's loss. Great testament of her life.

Luke & Judy Flanary - January 28 at 09:20 AM

DS

“ So sorry for your loss. Billie was a beautiful sweet lady. Prayers for the family.

Danna Stamper - January 27 at 07:20 PM

JC

“ Ryan, our heart goes out to you. You are right, nobody can claim doing more for Pike County citizens than the Johns family. My condolences to the family, especially Barry and Gloria, who hold my highest appreciation for their kindness to so many. Signed James and Deloris Cauley, Knoxville, Tn.

james cauley - January 27 at 05:53 PM

SW

“ I loved this lady. She and Reo were always, always so kind and sweet to me when I would stay there with Ryan back in the day. Wonderful memories and I love this family, sincere prayers for each of you.

Scott Wright - January 27 at 02:07 PM

JN

*Billie was one of a kind she was the most giving and kind person I have ever known. Memories of her and Reo towards me and my late wife Dorothy always were kindness and loving. This lovely person will be terribly missed.*

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**Jimmy Newcomb** - January 27 at 03:38 PM

BK

*I missed miss Billie, I worked at Ceder creek I got close to Billie never seen her without her makeup and dressed so nice she love her jewelry and scarfs I would bring some she loved them she had to have a hug I would visit her at her room she would just talk I like listening, I will always remember her she will be in my heart loved her*

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**Betty keathley** - January 31 at 10:54 AM

RP

*I have just seen that Billie has passed. I saw her at Cedar Creek several months back when one of our Ministers and some of our members were there. I knew her immediately, she looked just like she did when she was young💜. But she surprised me; she knew me and it had been many years since we had seen each other. My memories go back to the Robinson Creek Grade School when Reo was principal. But I remember most of him helping the Esco community with the slate dump there. Billie will be missed but never forgotten ❤️  
Roma Bartley Phillips*

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**Roma Collier Phillips** - January 31 at 05:36 PM