



## Ella Faye Baird

June 4, 1929 - August 11, 2016

Ella Faye {Wood} Baird, 87, died Thursday morning August 11, 2016 at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma surrounded by members of her family. Born June 4, 1929 in Vandalia, Missouri she was the daughter of Alva and Lois {Gibson} Wood. Faye shared her childhood with sisters Wilma and Helen and baby brother Leon. Her childhood nickname was “Bunny Nose.” September 11, 1948 proved to be a special date as Ella Faye Wood and Harold {Corky/Speed} Baird, Sr. were married. They enjoyed 66 years together with 62 of those years as residents of {Melville} Godfrey, Illinois in the same home on Clara Drive.

Faye participated in the marching band at Bowling Green High School as a bass drummer. Though never learning to read music, she played the organ “by ear.” In her junior and senior years she acted in school plays. As a high school student Faye developed skills in clothes designing; on one occasion modeling her own creation at the University of Missouri.

A graduate of Bowling Green in 1947, she earned an offer of a full scholarship to attend a nursing school in St. Louis. Plans changed as Corky Baird entered her life through a “chance meeting” at a hospital where Faye was assisting with care for his grandmother. His grandmother stated to Faye, “You take good care of my Corky!” She fulfilled that request. A footnote she always smiled about, Faye was runner-up in the Pike County Fair Beauty Pageant. Ella {as many called her later in life} served as a Den Mother in a Cub Scout Troop and was quite involved in several capacities at the old Melville Union

Congregational Church. She and Corky served many years as election judges in Godfrey. For fifteen years she worked as a cook in the Alton School District, both at North Junior High School and Alton High on College Avenue. Perhaps, her greatest legacy was and is the everlasting love she openly shared with anyone and everyone who crossed her path. "I never meet a stranger" she would say and you were certain to receive a hug.

Surviving are two daughters, Sandra Geller {Jim} of Tulsa, Oklahoma; Lori Schwartz {Gary} of Lake Cormorant, Mississippi; a son Harold 'Richard' Baird, Jr. {Terry O'Connor} of Alton; and Butch Chapman {Brenda} of Jerseyville, raised and considered a son. She is also survived by 16 grandchildren, 22 great grandchildren, and three great-great grandchildren.

Along with her parents she was preceded in death by her husband Corky; a sister Wilma, a brother Leon, a daughter Phyllis Harrell and several "special" in-laws, relatives, and loved ones.

Visitation will be from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 16, 2016 at Gent Funeral Home in Alton where funeral services will be at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 17, 2016 with Chaplain Marc Lane officiating. Burial will be at Valhalla Memorial Park in Godfrey. Memorials may be given to the Salvation Army or the USO.

# Cemetery Details

## Valhalla Memorial Park

2308 W. Delmar Ave.  
Godfrey, IL 62035

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 16. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
2409 State Street  
Alton, IL 62002  
(618) 466-5544  
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral

AUG 17. 1:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
2409 State Street  
Alton, IL 62002  
(618) 466-5544  
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ella Faye Baird*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Ella Faye Baird*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *My Aunt Faye was the embodiment of love itself. She loved us all so purely -- nothing but heart. Hers was a life well lived and she was well loved. I will miss her greatly. I send my deep condolences to my cousins Sandy, Dick and Lori and their families. Our prayers are with you in this time of sadness, but it is also a time of rejoicing that Aunt Faye is at peace with her Lord and Savior and her family members including her husband Corky, daughter Phyllis and my Mother Carolyn who reached Heaven before her.*

*Love always to my family,  
Tammy Fitzgerald*

Tammy Fitzgerald - August 16, 2016 at 05:49 PM



“ *Love, Ted & Tammy Baird & Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Ella Faye Baird.*



Love, Ted & Tammy Baird & Family - August 16, 2016 at 12:33 PM

SW

“ *Shelia, Thelma and Stanley White purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Ella Faye Baird.*



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**Shelia, Thelma and Stanley White** - August 15, 2016 at 10:18 PM

RP

“ *We are so sorry for your loss, these times in our life are never easy to deal with. I would encourage you the family to look unto the Lord He will help you get through this difficult time. we value our friendship this is to let you know that you are in our thoughts. Pastor Val Powe and Mrs. Colleen Powe.*

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**Rev Val & Colleen Powe** - August 15, 2016 at 06:55 PM