



Martha Shenesey

April 25, 1924 - January 14, 2020

Martha Belle Isle Shenesey passed away January 14, 2020 in Athens, Ga.

Martha was born April 25, 1924 at home in Atlanta's Capital View neighborhood to Sara and Clarence Belle Isle. Her beloved maternal grandmother Martha Missouri Brinkley Howard, a retired teacher, was a lasting influence. She lived with the family and took care of Martha and her younger sister Marian during the day so their mother could work. Mrs. Brinkley was fondly known as "Mama," and was born in 1861. She was an eyewitness to the burning of Atlanta.

Martha's mother Sara Howard Belle Isle worked as a secretary for the County Agricultural Agent at the Fulton County Courthouse from the early 1920s to her retirement in 1960. Her father, Clarence Belle Isle, was a World War I veteran, and auto mechanic when the Model T Ford was first invented. He worked first for his Uncle A. L. Belle Isle at Belle Isle Garage, Atlanta's first all night parking garage, then later as an auto parts salesman. He retired as a manager of Chandler Warehouse.

After graduating from Atlanta's Girls High School in 1942, at age 17, Martha married the love of her life Bill Price as World War II broke out. Bill was stationed at Ft. McPherson as a buck private. He left the base without leave in order to elope with Martha to Covington, Ga., where they were married in the

Newton County Courthouse. Martha's mother Sara was initially appalled, but quickly warmed up to Bill as her new son-in-law and in no time loved him dearly.

Shortly after their marriage, Bill earned his aviator wings and left for Europe where he transported paratroopers. He participated in the invasion of Holland, dropping paratroopers behind enemy lines.

Upon returning from the war, Bill's first act was to buy a Harley Davidson motorcycle with the money Martha saved working at Rich's while he was at war. His second act was to be hired as one of the first pilots at Delta Air Lines. Bill soon became a captain, then senior pilot and was "Mr. Delta" appearing in a Mademoiselle magazine photo shoot. He also had the fastest boat on Jackson Lake. Prior to stepping down from flying two years before death in 1965, Bill was seventeenth in pilot seniority. Had he lived he would have retired as "Number 1," Senior Pilot for Delta based on his seniority.

Martha and her family were charter members of Capital View Presbyterian Church in Atlanta and later transferred their membership to Gordon Street Presbyterian Church in Atlanta's West End where Martha served as president of the Women of the Church, youth Sunday School teacher, Sunday night youth-group leader and secretary of the Atlanta Presbytery Women of the Church. Her father was Clerk of Session and Financial Secretary.

After Bill died, Martha and her young son, Doug, moved from Atlanta's Cascade Heights to East Point the day second grade let out. They lived in East Point from 1967 to 1979. Doug attended Oak Knoll Grammar School and graduated Headland High School in 1977. East Point was teaming with young families and children during this time, which was what Martha wanted for her son. She attended every little league football, baseball and basketball game

Doug played in.

In 1979, Martha moved with her parents to Mobile, Ala., to be with Martha's sister Marian. Doug soon followed and finished college at the University of South Alabama. Martha worked for Marian's husband Dr. H. V. Allen until he retired. In Mobile, Martha and Marian were devoted members of Central Presbyterian Church. After an introduction by her sister and her brother-in-law, Martha met her second husband, James D. "Red" Shenese. Jim was a World War II hero and a retired architect. Jim was also an Auburn War Eagle to the core. Upon graduating Auburn prior to WW II he enlisted in the Army where he received the Silver Star for his role as lead engineer in the building of the bridge over the Rhine River in Germany. The bridge was instrumental in the successful allied invasion of Germany.

In 2013, Martha sold her home on Dog River in Mobile and moved to Athens, Ga., to be with her son and daughter-in-law. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Athens whose members visited her faithfully.

At age 95 and almost 9 months, Martha has outlived all the family members in her generation, thanks to having inherited the Belle Isle longevity gene, as well as depression era Greatest Generation grit and strength. Her longevity can also be attributed to excellent medical care from Dr. Mae Bullecar and the love and attention of her R.A.s, med-techs, other caregivers and the companionship of her Arbor Terrace community of friends. During her last days, Compassionate Care Hospice supervised her direct care in conjunction with the Arbor Terrace nursing staff, and with the help of great private sitters, Care to Continue, and the devoted care staff at Arbor Terrace.

She is survived by her only child Douglas Lee Price and daughter-in-law Debbie Rowe Price of Watkinsville GA.; granddaughter Kelly Mangum, her

husband Marc Mangum and great grandchild Georgie Mangum of Mt. Pleasant, S. C.; and her sister Marian's children, Jim Shipp of Mobile, Ala., and Donna Shipp Blackwell of Ellisville, Miss., and each of their families.

She will be buried in Atlanta's Westview Cemetery next to her Bill.

Tribute Wall



“ *Martha Shenese*y

October 08, 2022 at 11:31 AM