



## Gladys Lester Shoda

June 20, 1919 - January 19, 2014

Princeton, WV- Gladys Lester Shoda, 94, of Glenwood Park Retirement Village, and formerly of Bluefield, WV, passed away peacefully early Sunday morning, January 19, 2014 at Glenwood Park Retirement Village. She was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Bluefield and St. Anne's Altar Society. She was a loving wife, and a devoted mother and grandmother. She was the widow of Joseph A. Shoda and was the last surviving member of her immediate family. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by four brothers, Bert Lester, Burgess Lester, Ellis Lester and Jim Lester; and four sisters, Sadie Lester, Catherine Lester, Grace Mutter and Jackie DeBruhl. Survivors include two daughters, "Peggy" Margaret Austin and husband Lane of Princeton, WV, and Kathryn "Kathy" Slade and husband Stephen of Springville, VA; five grandchildren, Grat Slade and wife LeAnn of Bluewell, Stephanie Slade-Hylton and husband Joshua of Roanoke, VA, Brandon Austin of Morgantown, WV, Clay Austin of Morgantown, and Chase Austin of Princeton; one great-grandchild, Addison Slade; numerous nieces and nephews; and she leaves behind her beloved Skye Terrier, Lady Bug. The family will receive friends at Mercer Funeral Home, Bluefield, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Monday January 20, 2014 where a Christian Wake service will be held at 7:30 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday January 21, 2014 at the Bluefield Sacred Heart Catholic Church with her nephew, Rev. Richard W. Shoda officiating. Entombment will follow at the mausoleum at Woodlawn Memorial Park in Bluewell where Grat Slade,

Brandon Austin, Clay Austin, Chase Austin and Joshua Hylton will serve as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers will be Al Modena and Dr. Domingo Javier. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to Sacred Heart Catholic Church, P. O. Box 608, Bluefield, WV 24701 or to the Mercer County Humane Society, P. O. Box 5723 Princeton, WV 24740. Those wishing to share memories or condolence messages with the family may do so by visiting [www.MercerFuneralHome.com](http://www.MercerFuneralHome.com) Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the family of Mrs. Gladys Lester Shoda.

# Tribute Wall



“ Gladys Lester Shoda

October 05, 2023 at 06:08 PM



“ I'm so sorry to read about your mother! What a wonderful lady she was; loved life, her family, her church, etc.! I pray good memories of your Mother and Father will make you smile in the days, months, years ahead. May you know God's peace and joy! Love, Lindsey

Lindsey Grubb Barilla - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM



“ Gladys was a true lady, and I always enjoyed sitting and chatting with her when we would all be at Steve and Kathy's when Grat and Stephanie were small. She and I shared many laughs, May your memories of her be a comfort, and may the legacy of her life be exhibited in her descendants for generations to come.

Ellen Apple - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM



“ Love and prayers to you and your family!, What a special lady!! So sorry for your loss ... Mothers are Angels !! She will always be in your Heart? I will be in touch.... Talk soon!!

Millie - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

SD

“ My dear Aunt Gladys....the memories I have of visiting her and Uncle Joe at the 'house on the hill' are some of the fondest family memories I have. For me, she was always a light in our family....a voice of reason when so often there was no other. I remember her taking me to church and, ultimately sharing that faith with me....telling stories....giving hugs.... encouraging me to continue to live my life in the best way I can .....and helping to bridge the chasm which existed between my own mother and me. The tears I shed for you come from deep within my heart. May your last journey find you surrounded by the grace and light of the God you loved so much.

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**Susan DeBruhl** - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

GC

“ Peggy and Kathy, may it be of some comfort to know that others are thinking of you, and remembering you in their prayers.

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**Gary L. Collins** - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

MD

“ As my mom's youngest sister, she was the last living direct blood relative to my West Virginia heritage. A connection with all of its meanings and mysteries I have always cherished. Hard working, proud, strong opinions. Way back and up into those beautiful mountains. I loved that even though my mom didn't seem to much. I remember lying in bed at Aunt Gladys' house as a young boy 9 or 10 and her telling me all kinds of bed time stories. She seemed so young and full of devilish spirit. I remember her husband Joe. Did he work for Montgomery Ward? Anyway she touched me deeply then and much much later when I visited her with my wife and tried to get her to tell me stories about her early life growing up. My sister Teri was able to gather more stories from her and other members of the Lester family. May her journey continue in light and love. This poem by Louise McNeill "West Virginia" catches my feelings of those days up in the mountains at family reunions: *Where the mountain river flows And the rhododendron grows Is the land of all the lands That I touch with tender hands; Loved and treasured, earth and star, By my father's father far-- Deep-earth, black-earth, of-the-lime From the ancient oceans' time. Plow-land, fern-land, woodland shade, Grave-land where my kin are laid, West Virginia's hills to bless-- Leafy songs of wilderness; Dear land, near land, here at home-- Where the rocks are honeycomb, And the rhododendrons . . . Where the mountain river runs.*

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**Marshall DeBruhl** - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

SF

“ Peggy and family we are so sorry to hear about your mom . She was such a beautiful person in all the ways the word beautiful can be used . She loved all of you so much as i know you loved her. Our love and prayers are with you.

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**sarah and jim ferguson** - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

JP

“ Peggy and Lane, So sorry for you loss. Your mother was a dear lady and I have many fond memories of her and your dad back in the 70's and 80's. They were a wonderful couple. I am at Hilton Head or would be right there tonight. Please know that you are in my prayers. Love jinkie

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**Jinkie Peacock** - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

PD

“ Sincere sympathies to all of Aunt Gladys' family. When I visited Aunt Gladys with my husband, Marshall (her nephew) I was greatly touched by her ladylike grace and her enduring love for her husband and family.

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**Patricia DeBruhl** - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

AJ

“ Kathy and family~  
We are sorry to hear of your mother's passing. She was a sweet lady. Cherish your memories!  
Keeping you in thoughts and prayers.

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**Alva and Bob Jones** - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM