



# Mary Lou Ham

OCT 7, 1925 - APR 4, 2014



Scan to Visit



# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 5



## Mary Lou Ham

OCT 7, 1925 - APR 4, 2014

**M**ary Lou Britt Ham (October 7, 1925--April 4, 2014) Born in Ojus, Florida (Miami/Dade), Mary Lou grew up in a family of eight brothers and sisters, helping on the family farm in Turkey Creek, Florida, where she learned the life-long values of God, family, hard work, frugality, cleanliness, careful maintenance of possessions, self-motivation, and self-discipline. As a young girl, attending Lone Oak Baptist Church with her family, she came to know Christ as her Savior and Lord and lived a full life of faith anchored in Him. Though unable to finish school beyond ninth grade, she valued education and later earned her GED after "putting hubby through" pharmacy school at the University of Florida, always encouraging the academic success of her son Al and daughter Shirley, both born while she and her husband were living in a small trailer near the campus in Gainesville.

In 1950, she and her family moved to St. Petersburg, where, working as a loving and conscientious homemaker, she also helped to manage Ham's Pharmacy, their family-owned drug store, until it closed in the late '60s. Later, she worked for ten years as a school crossing guard in Pinellas County.

An avid Tampa Bay Rays fan from the start, Mary Lou loved baseball, keeping score and even helping to coach for her son's teams, often requested to pitch in neighborhood sandlot games. She enjoyed music, playing the harmonica from childhood and providing music lessons for her children; how she loved to listen to Al play the guitar, and Shirley, the piano! Boating and fishing from their getaway near the Weeki Wachee River were some of her happiest memories. Other interests and hobbies included restoring and refinishing furniture, painting miniature bottles, traveling (Spain, Mexico, Switzerland, Hawaii, Ireland, Alaska -to name a few destinations), reading, working word puzzles, and dancing (taking lessons in her later years). A pet owner with a heart for animals, she was never without a beloved canine friend until the last few years of her life.



## Obituary

**Mary Lou Ham**

OCT 7, 1925 - APR 4, 2014

---

In 2009 and in failing health, she moved again to Gainesville, this time to be close to her daughter-but she left her heart in St. Petersburg with its bright sunshine, open waters, and gulf breezes. She is now home with her Lord, in the glorious light of His presence, listening to the music of heavenly choirs-and dancing.

---

Mary Lou is preceded in death by her husband, Alfred Hubert Ham, and her grandson, Matthew James Gamble. She is survived by her sisters: Eleanor Regan, Vera Rowland, and Ruby Pope; her children: Alfred Hubert Ham, Jr., and Shirley Karen Gamble; her three grandchildren: Roger Dale Gamble, Michael William Ham, and Tamara Iris Martin; and seven great grandchildren: Erin Elizabeth Martin, Casalyn Brooke Gamble, Dalton Walker Gamble, Emma Grace Martin, Megan Angel Martin, Jenna Lynn Ham, and Joseph Reed Ham.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Mary Lou's memory may be sent to Northside Baptist Church in St. Petersburg, where she was a member for over forty years, or to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.



## Tribute Wall

**Mary Lou Ham**

OCT 7, 1925 - APR 4, 2014

AG

**Ann Goergen** posted:

To Mary Lou's family, please accept my most sincere condolences on the passing of your dear Mom and Grandmother. I'm a neighbor from 6000 Park Place. I would meet Mary Lou when we were walking our sweet 4 legged friends who were both senior doggies. Not sure but I seem to recall, Mary's little white dog was Snowball..? We would chat about our furry friends and occasionally about the Rays games. I was always happy to 'run' into Mary Lou. She was a nice person. May you, all, find some comfort in knowing Mary Lou is at peace and has seen the Face of God. Sincerely, Ann Goergen

April 11 at 6:31 AM

JG

**Julia Gamble** posted:

Grandma, You reminded me of my own mother. I'm glad that you got to spend time with your great grandchildren. Peace and joy without anxiety is your eternity now. Sounds like heaven to me. Love you, Julia.

April 11 at 5:26 AM

VR

**Vera Rowland** posted:

Sis: we had 85 years together laughing, working, playing, singing and oh those fishing trips together. Will miss you but you rest in HIS arms now.

April 10 at 5:01 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Mary by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit

