



## Shirley Chumley Bailess

December 9, 1936 - March 1, 2025

Shirley Chumley Bailess, 88, of Hurt died Saturday, March 1, 2025 at Centra Lynchburg General Hospital. She was the wife of the late Ronald Hester Bailess.

She was born December 9, 1936 in Pittsylvania County, a daughter of the late Clifford Carroll Chumley and Laura Wooldridge Chumley. Shirley was a devoted member of New Prospect Baptist Church, where her faith and fellowship were an integral part of her life. She dedicated over 40 years of service as a secretary at Hurt Elementary School, leaving a lasting impact on generations of students and staff. Shirley had a deep passion for shopping and traveling, and she came close to fulfilling her goal of visiting all fifty states, embracing each journey with enthusiasm and joy.

She is survived by one son, Jeff Bailess of Hurt; one brother, Ronnie Chumley of Hurt; four sisters, Lena Bennett and her husband, Kermit, Susan Crews, Chris Franklin all of Hurt and Kathryn Dodson of Danville; one son-in-law, Paul VanKerckhove, II and his wife, Jean of Lynch Station; one grandson, Paul R. VanKerckhove, III and his wife, Kara of Chesterfield; a number of nieces and nephews; and her special travel partner, June Bucannon.

She was preceded in death by a daughter Cindy Leigh Bailess VanKerckhove; two infant sons; four sisters, Doris Jean "Tootsie" Atkinson, Penny Chumley,

Barbara Hall and "Teeny" Bradner; and three brothers, Billy, Carl and Ralph Chumley.

A funeral service will be conducted at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at New Prospect Church, Hurt by the Rev. Brady Willis with interment to follow in the Chumley Family Cemetery, Hurt.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the church.

The family suggests that those wishing to make memorials consider New Prospect Baptist Church, P.O. Box 547, Hurt, VA 24563.

Finch & Finch Funeral and Cremation Service, Altavista is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Chumley Family Cemetery

3519 Roark Mill Road  
Hurt, VA 24563

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 4. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (ET)

New Prospect Baptist Church  
509 Prospect Rd.  
Hurt, VA 24563

## Funeral Service

MAR 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

New Prospect Baptist Church  
509 Prospect Rd.  
Hurt, VA 24563

# Tribute Wall

KH

“ *Mrs. Bailess was one of the sweetest ladies you’d ever encounter at Hurt Elementary School. May she rest in Heaven. Sending prayers for her family and friends.* ”

**Katrina Hunt** - March 10, 2025 at 10:24 PM

AG

“ *Angela Gledhill lit a candle in memory of Shirley Bailess* ”



**Angela Gledhill** - March 06, 2025 at 09:12 AM

PR

“ *Shirley was such a kind and caring woman. She'll be missed by so many.* ”

**Phyllis Roach** - March 04, 2025 at 07:55 PM

DD

“ *Diane Davis lit a candle in memory of Shirley Bailess* ”



**Diane Davis** - March 04, 2025 at 11:59 AM

EP

“ Eddie Gayle Puckette lit a candle in memory of Shirley Bailess



Eddie Gayle Puckette - March 03, 2025 at 08:21 PM

SO

“ Such a nice lady. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Shirley Orrell - March 03, 2025 at 02:18 PM

TT

“ The Infrastructure team. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Shirley Chumley Bailess.



The Infrastructure team. - March 03, 2025 at 12:18 PM

TT

“ The Infrastructure team. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley Chumley Bailess.

The Infrastructure team. - March 03, 2025 at 12:18 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Shirley Chumley Bailess.*



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March 03, 2025 at 09:18 AM



“ *Darrell & JoAnne Rorer lit a candle in memory of Shirley Chumley Bailess*



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**Darrell & JoAnne Rorer** - March 03, 2025 at 09:01 AM



“ *Charlene Weaver lit a candle in memory of Shirley Chumley Bailess*



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**Charlene Weaver** - March 03, 2025 at 08:45 AM



“ *Paul R VanKerckhove lit a candle in memory of Shirley Bailess*



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**Paul R VanKerckhove** - March 02, 2025 at 06:47 PM

GG

“ *Gwen Dawson Goggin lit a candle in memory of Shirley Bailess*



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**Gwen Dawson Goggin** - March 02, 2025 at 05:14 PM

CS

“ *Shirley kept on living, shopping, going to the beach, and helping out at school no matter what difficulties her body presented her with.*

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**Claudia Stjohn** - March 02, 2025 at 04:46 PM

CW

“ *Charlene Weaver lit a candle in memory of Shirley Bailess*



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**Charlene Weaver** - March 02, 2025 at 04:34 PM