



Joyce Lee Christian

June 15, 1940 - July 17, 2025

Joyce Lee Christian passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, at her home in Rock Hall on July 17, 2025. She was 85 years old.

She was born in Chestertown, MD on June 15, 1940, the only child of James Wilbur “Kizzy” Dowling, Jr. and Genevieve Stevens Dowling. She attended Rock Hall High School.

Joyce had many jobs in her life, but she was most well-known for her time bartending at Maggie’s and working at Bayside Foods delivering groceries. She particularly enjoyed her time delivering food to the elderly people of Rock Hall with Bayside, and her time she spent as a caretaker and companion to Mrs. Ellie Hubbard. She was proud of being from Rock Hall, and all of the kids in town knew and loved her. She wasn’t just “Mrs. Christian” or “Joyce” to anyone in Rock Hall – she was either “Mom Mom Joyce” or “Aunt Joyce”, no matter who you were.

Her purpose in life was to take care of others. Her door was always open, and she helped raise many children who weren’t her own out of the kindness of her heart and love for children. She never let anyone around her go without a good meal and a place to stay.

She was a member of the Rock Hall Seventh Day Adventist Church. She enjoyed playing bingo, going shopping, and long car rides spent listening to music with her loved ones. She was an active grandmother and great-grandmother, attending all of her grandchildren’s events and spending as much time as she could with them.

She is survived by her children: Bonnie Whaland Edwards (Ronnie), Bonnie Kay "Tunnie" Bennett, Debbie Lynne Whaland (Charlie), Donald Lawrence Whaland, and Mary Lou Christian; grandchildren: James Colby Usilton (Lauren), Jenna Lynne Edwards, Jacob Whaland Edwards (Melissa), Sierra Diane Whaland, and Autumn Lynne Iacona (Brandon); and great-grandchildren: Lowan Olivia, Logan Whaland, and James Riggs.

Services will be held on Sunday, July 27 at Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home in Chestertown at 10:00 am. A viewing will be held one hour prior, from 9:00 am – 10:00 am at the funeral home. Interment to follow at Wesley Chapel Cemetery with a reception following at the Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Company.

In addition to flowers, please consider donating to the Rock Hall Seventh Day Adventist Food Pantry "Blessing Bags" in Joyce's memory at 21366 Sharp St. PO Box 477 Rock Hall, MD 21661.

Previous Events

Viewing

JUL 27. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home
130 Speer Road
Chestertown, MD 21620
<http://www.fhnfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

JUL 27. 10:00 AM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home
130 Speer Road
Chestertown, MD 21620
<http://www.fhnfuneralhome.com>

Burial

JUL 27 (ET)

Wesley Chapel Cemetery
6179 Rock Hall Road
Rock Hall, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Joyce Lee Christian*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - July 25, 2025 at 09:10 AM

MB

“ *To Mabel, Tuny, Two one and Autumn I am so sorry for your loss. Your mom will always be Bootsie Ellen to me because that is how Sharon introduced her to me. I'm sorry I am just seeing this now . My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Love Mouse*

MELINDA BLYMAN - August 17, 2025 at 12:29 PM

MC

“ *We want to thank everyone for attending our Mom's service. Everything was just beautiful! We are so grateful for all of the love and support. We had the best in our Mom. We love and miss you Mom. We will see ya later in Heaven. Love always, the family of Joyce Christian xoxo*



Mary Lou Christian - August 04, 2025 at 11:50 AM

ST

“ Sam And Vicki Taylor lit a candle in memory of Joyce Lee Christian



Sam and Vicki Taylor - July 27, 2025 at 06:40 PM

JS

“ My first cousin was a true Rock Hall matriarch. She loved her family and her hometown. She worked various jobs not for the money but to be around the hometown people she loved and enjoyed so much. I know she is haven now no more pain and suffering and is reunited with all of our loved ones and friends that have gone before her. RIP cuz and I will see you there one day. ❤️
❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏



Jeff Shahan - July 26, 2025 at 09:14 PM

MU

“ Marie Usilton lit a candle in memory of Joyce Lee Christian



Marie Usilton - July 26, 2025 at 04:51 PM

DT

“ *David W. & Patricia L. Townsend lit a candle in memory of Joyce Lee Christian*



David W. & Patricia L. Townsend - July 25, 2025 at 10:32 AM

SR

“ *Stewy, Janine, and Eric Ransom purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Joyce Lee Christian.*



Stewy, Janine, and Eric Ransom - July 24, 2025 at 10:24 PM

BC

“ *Mary Lou and family ,so sorry to hear about your Mom . Joyce was a special person she truly did love Rock Hall like so many of us . She had the prettiest smile you kids all inherited that same smile . She loved her family so very much . May God help you through this difficult time . Just remember she is still alive and well she just stepped out of time into eternity . She will be waiting for you in heaven. Hugs and kisses ! Barry and Nancy Conner*

Barry and Nancy Conner - July 24, 2025 at 04:09 PM

JS

“Joyce, thank you for your Friendship, you were there for us during the good times and not so good times. You were so loved by my family and we already miss you. I know how much you loved Elvis, and I will never forget how happy you were when I brought you a copy of his and Priscilla's marriage license back from a trip to Las Vegas. You started crying and said that you were going to hang the license on your bedroom wall. I loved to see you dance, it meant that you were Happy. To your family, if I can help in anyway please let me. Sending my love to all of You. Jean Spence

Jean E SPENCE - July 24, 2025 at 12:16 PM

EL

“Ellen lit a candle in memory of Joyce Lee Christian



Ellen - July 24, 2025 at 10:22 AM



“Brenda Biddle sent a virtual gift in memory of Joyce Lee Christian



Brenda Biddle - July 24, 2025 at 09:58 AM



Joyce and I were great friends for many years...Oh the fun we had.....shared many laughs and quite a few drinks in our earlier age...went dancing every weekend even walked into a pole in front of Tossies after leaving Fred and Bettys walking to the legion. Fly high Joicie we will dance again when we meet again Love Brenda

Brenda Biddle - July 24, 2025 at 10:14 AM

BC

“ *Condolences to Bonnie and family. So sorry for your loss.*



Butch and Sally Coursey - July 23, 2025 at 06:41 PM

FE

“ *Faye Evans lit a candle in memory of Joyce Lee Christian*



Faye Evans - July 23, 2025 at 02:36 PM

RT

“ *My deepest condolences to her family*



Roni Lynn Thomas - July 23, 2025 at 09:44 AM

SS

Miss Joyce was my girl God picked a flower 🌹

Sharon Scott - July 24, 2025 at 01:50 AM

TS

“ We are so sorry to learn of your loss. She will be missed by so many.

The first snow cone I ever had was made by Miss Joyce. My brothers and I were allowed to ride our bikes to "Kizzy's". Our favorite was Tuti Fruti!

May all of the memories you and your family made with her give you joy and strength.

Todd and Diane Smith



Todd and Diane Smith - July 23, 2025 at 08:21 AM

DW

“ Debbie Wiest lit a candle in memory of Joyce Lee Christian



Debbie Wiest - July 22, 2025 at 10:49 PM

CN

“ Chris & Vivian Nordhoff lit a candle in memory of Joyce Lee Christian



Chris & Vivian Nordhoff - July 22, 2025 at 05:45 PM

LM

“ Love, Chuck & Mel purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Joyce Lee Christian.



Love, Chuck & Mel - July 22, 2025 at 03:45 PM

EF

“ Elaine Fithian lit a candle in memory of Joyce Lee Christian



Elaine Fithian - July 22, 2025 at 01:46 PM

DG

“ Dr. Travis Jaeger and Girls purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Joyce Lee Christian.



Dr. Travis Jaeger and Girls - July 22, 2025 at 12:05 PM

DG

“ Dr. Travis Jaeger and Girls planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joyce Lee Christian.

Dr. Travis Jaeger and Girls - July 22, 2025 at 12:05 PM

EA

“ I worked along side Ms. Joyce many years ago at Bayside Foods. One of the sweetest people I had ever met. sending my deepest Condolences to her Family ❤️



Edith Armstead - July 22, 2025 at 10:19 AM

SD

“ Sheila Blyman Dlugoborski lit a candle in memory of Joyce Lee Christian



Sheila Blyman Dlugoborski - July 22, 2025 at 09:53 AM

KB

“ Kaye Barnes lit a candle in memory of Joyce Lee Christian



Kaye Barnes - July 22, 2025 at 08:35 AM

JR

“ Joanna Redmond lit a candle in memory of Joyce Lee Christian



Joanna Redmond - July 22, 2025 at 08:31 AM

AG

“ *What an awesome human being and a true Rock Hall Soldier. I've many memories of Ms. Joyce and her family. If Ms. Joyce loved ya, she loved ya. If she had a problem with you, she still loved ya, And I loved this great lady and her family. Condolences to all that was blessed enough to have known this fine lady. Another Rock Hall Icon left us, but not really. Ms. Joyce and her smile and soft voice will go on in memory for us all to cherish. Prayers to the girls, Donnie and to your families.*

Arthur Godfrey - July 22, 2025 at 08:14 AM

BC

“ *Barbara Calder lit a candle in memory of Joyce Lee Christian*



Barbara calder - July 22, 2025 at 08:10 AM

BR

“ *Bill & Cheryl Reihl lit a candle in memory of Joyce Lee Christian*



Bill & Cheryl Reihl - July 22, 2025 at 12:02 AM

LW

“ *Lisa Williams lit a candle in memory of Joyce Lee Christian*



Lisa Williams - July 21, 2025 at 10:04 PM

JK

“ *Jimmy & Carrie Kirby lit a candle in memory of Joyce Lee Christian*



Jimmy & Carrie Kirby - July 21, 2025 at 09:51 PM

GP

“ *Gene And Lynda Palmatary lit a candle in memory of Joyce Lee Christian*



Gene and Lynda Palmatary - July 21, 2025 at 09:14 PM

LP

Bonnie and family. Prayers and blessings during the loss of your mother. Hold onto the great memories and the road will be a little easier. God bless. Love, Gene and Lynda

Lynda Palmatary - July 24, 2025 at 07:48 AM

VR

“ Valerie Reihl lit a candle in memory of Joyce Lee Christian



Valerie Reihl - July 21, 2025 at 08:35 PM

IC

“ Iris Carter lit a candle in memory of Joyce Lee Christian



Iris Carter - July 21, 2025 at 08:06 PM

DD

“ Debbie Dalrymple lit a candle in memory of Joyce Lee Christian



Debbie Dalrymple - July 21, 2025 at 08:01 PM

LE

“ Love Amanda E planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joyce Lee Christian.

Love Amanda E - July 21, 2025 at 07:41 PM

LE

“ Love Amanda E purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Joyce Lee Christian.



Love Amanda E - July 21, 2025 at 07:41 PM

SJ

“ Mom Mom Joyce babysat for us for our oldest Grandson Mark Philip Shorter. He was always excited to go to her and sometimes didn't want to leave. She was one very special person and we all loved her so much. Baby Mark as she called him is 34 now and still fondly remembers her and how wonderful and caring she was. She will sure be missed by all who knew and loved her.

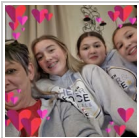
Sandy Joiner - July 21, 2025 at 07:23 PM

SS

“ Sandra L Sheffield lit a candle in memory of Joyce Lee Christian



Sandra L Sheffield - July 21, 2025 at 06:25 PM



“ Kelley Sisco lit a candle in memory of Joyce Lee Christian



Kelley Sisco - July 21, 2025 at 05:32 PM

TM

“ Miss Joyce is the mother of one of my very best friends. Early in our friendship, Marylou and I took our children to see Taylor Swift in D.C. And all I remember was Miss Joyce telling us that we better big careful in that big city. She didn't like to venture far from Rock Hall. I enjoyed getting to know Miss Joyce over the years. She has raised a beautiful daughter (inside and out). And even though Marylou's heart is breaking, she still continues to care about others and puts her heartbreak aside to help her friends and family. Miss Joyce, you've done a great job so now it's time to rest and know that your family will be alright until you meet again in heaven.



Tillie Metz - July 21, 2025 at 05:18 PM

CC

“ Carolyn Cameron lit a candle in memory of Joyce Lee Christian



carolyn cameron - July 21, 2025 at 04:48 PM

CC

Thank you Miss Joyce for being my friend. Will miss our talks.

carolyn cameron - July 21, 2025 at 04:51 PM

JE

“ Jim And Mary Ann Edwards sent a virtual gift in memory of Joyce Lee Christian



Jim and Mary Ann Edwards - July 21, 2025 at 04:04 PM

JE

To the family, I am so very sorry for your loss. Joyce was a wonderful lady to everyone and loved all of you very much. Our family gatherings will not be the same without her. I will miss her so much. God Bless all.
❤️ *Mary Ann*

Jim and Mary Ann Edwards - July 21, 2025 at 04:29 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Joyce Lee Christian.*



July 21, 2025 at 03:44 PM

SQ

“ *Sara & David Quinn lit a candle in memory of Joyce Lee Christian*



Sara & David Quinn - July 21, 2025 at 01:36 PM

SQ

Beautiful tributes for a beautiful lady. Prayers for comfort and healing
🙏💖

Sara & David Quinn - July 21, 2025 at 01:37 PM

SQ

Beautiful tributes for a beautiful lady. Prayers for comfort and healing
🙏💖

Sara & David Quinn - July 21, 2025 at 01:41 PM

CF

“ *Connie Lee Fithian lit a candle in memory of Joyce Lee Christian*



Connie Lee Fithian - July 21, 2025 at 01:16 PM

RO

“ *RJ And Kristi Osborn lit a candle in memory of Joyce Lee Christian*



RJ and Kristi Osborn - July 21, 2025 at 12:30 PM

BG

“ *Keeping all of Mrs Joyce family in my prayers. Asking out heavenly Father to bring you comfort and peace during this time. With love, Bettyann Glenn*



Bettyann Glenn - July 21, 2025 at 11:48 AM

BP

“ *So sorry to hear of Joyce's passing. She will be Missed By Many! She gave us all the greatest gift that she could give{ her friendship} ! Gods speed Joyce!!! May God give your family comfort knowing she has a place at your table! Butch Price*



Butch Price - July 21, 2025 at 11:29 AM

SW

“ *What a gift to know and love Aunt Joyce!! She was a wonderful friend and companion to my grandmother and and enormous help to me. She loved All of us , dogs included, as if we were blood!! I am so blesssd to have been able to know and love her*□

Sherry Edwards Woodfield - July 21, 2025 at 10:08 AM

CE

“ *Charles & Donna Hubbard Edwards sent a virtual gift in memory of Joyce Lee Christian*



Charles & Donna Hubbard Edwards - July 21, 2025 at 10:08 AM

CE

Our thoughts & prayers are with the family. She was my mother's caregiver & friend Eleanor Hubbard. She was a beautiful woman inside & out which will be missed by all. Aunt Joyce tell Mom I miss her. Rest in peace until we meet again. Love you always, Donna

Charles & Donna Hubbard Edwards - July 21, 2025 at 10:33 AM

PM

“ *Pam Marvel lit a candle in memory of Joyce Lee Christian*



Pam Marvel - July 21, 2025 at 09:48 AM

JE

“ *Jo Ann Edwards lit a candle in memory of
Joyce Lee Christian*



Jo Ann Edwards - July 21, 2025 at 09:23 AM