



Thelma "Bootsie" Bell

September 8, 1942 - February 17, 2024

Thelma "Bootsie" (Scott) Bell, 81, passed away at Copper Ridge Nursing Home in Sykesville, MD, on February 17, 2024 after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's Disease.

Bootsie was born in Rock Hall, Maryland, on September 8, 1942, the daughter of the late Roy Scott and Dorothy (Urie) Mench. She attended Rock Hall High School, followed by training in Baltimore to become a licensed cosmetologist. She eventually opened her own beauty shop, The Hair Boutique, in Chestertown, MD where she worked for much of her career – and later worked as a Residential Counselor for the better part of a decade at Crossroads Behavior Health Services.

Bootsie met her future husband, an army cadet named Larry Bell, when he was stationed at the Tolchester Nike Base. They married June 12, 1965 and after stints in Ohio, Alabama, and Georgia, the couple made their home in Chestertown, MD with their baby girl Stephanie. They were together for 25 years.

Bootsie was an avid animal lover, there wasn't a stray cat, bird, dog, or anything that wasn't welcome in her home. Most would agree she was one of kind, with an absolute heart of gold.

She is survived by her daughter, Stephanie Balderrama; son-in-law Andre; granddaughters Samantha and Charlie; and her best friend forever, Jean Spence.

She was preceded in death by her beloved mother, Dorothy (Urie) Mench;

stepfather Ben Mench; and brother Sean Mench.

Visitation will be at Fellows, Helfenbein and Newnam Funeral Home, 130 Speer Road, Chestertown, MD, 21620 on Saturday, February 24, from 11:30am to 1:30pm. A funeral service will be held at the same location immediately following the viewing.

The burial will be at Wesley Chapel following the funeral service.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial contribution in memory of Bootsie to Really Great Cats Rescue, Inc., P.O. Box 363, Chestertown, MD 21620 or any animal rescue of your choice.

Cemetery Details

Wesley Chapel Cemetery

6179 Rock Hall Road
Rock Hall, MD

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 24. 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM (ET)

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

Service

FEB 24. 1:30 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Thelma "Bootsie" Bell*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - February 24, 2024 at 10:57 AM



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Thelma "Bootsie" Bell*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - February 22, 2024 at 02:24 PM

LB

“ *I didn't know Bootsie, but I wanted to let her family know that I've recently adopted Charlie, her black and white long hair cat. Charlie is such a love-bug, and she's doing very well in her new forever home. I know Bootsie would be happy to know that Charlie is getting plenty of love and attention.*

Leslie Beard - March 14, 2024 at 06:49 PM

TV

“ *The Bell's were our neighbors for years. I considered Steph and her mom my 2nd family. I remember the excitement I felt when I could have sleepovers with Stephanie and her mom was the coolest mom ever. We'd get to stay up late and eat everything with ketchup on it. I remember watching many scary movies with them that I could never watch at home. Steph had the most prettiest rooms and we'd have so much fun in her mom's salon. I remember Steph and her mom fixing my hair when I decided to cut it really short in my freshman year of high school. BAD DECISION, but they were both the first people I thought of that could fix it for me, and not judge me for making a mistake. I have so many fond memories of Bootsie and she will always be remembered as the coolest moms around. Thinking of you, Steph, during this time. Thank you for always treating me like your sister and for your mom always welcoming me to your home during my childhood years. And for always fixing my hair!*

Tammy VanSant - March 10, 2024 at 02:42 PM

JC

“ *Bootsie was such a special friend. In the early years of her career, we shared our Breck hairspray experiences together as hairdressers. She loved coloring and Styling hair. I will always remember seeing Bootsie in her convertible, top down, sporting her platinum blonde bouffant hairstyle, (not blowing in the wind), and her 3 pastel colored poodles sitting in the backseat. It always brought a smile to my face. We had so much fun at dances, numerous shopping sprees, my visit to the Military base in Savannah and sharing letters over the years. Bootsie was a true friend, one of a kind and one to behold. She will always be remembered. My sincere condolences go out to her family, beautiful daughter and sweet grandchildren.*



Janet Coleman - February 28, 2024 at 11:35 AM

JH

“ Sending to you my deepest sympathy. I have great memories of my neighbor, Bootsie, growing up in Rock Hall. May the loving memories she left with you help bring you comfort.

June Coleman Hadaway - February 27, 2024 at 11:48 AM

MJ

“ Mark & Sandra Joiner lit a candle in memory of Thelma "Bootsie" Bell



Mark & Sandra Joiner - February 24, 2024 at 07:05 PM

AE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Andrea and Timmy Edwards - February 23, 2024 at 03:17 PM

CB

“ Charlie Balderrama lit a candle in memory of Thelma "Bootsie" Bell



Charlie Balderrama - February 23, 2024 at 11:09 AM

MC

“ *Sending our love and prayers to each of you, Miss Bootsie was a beautiful lady inside and out. Love, Mary Lou, Autumn and Brandon*



Mary Lou Christian - February 23, 2024 at 10:09 AM



“ *10 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - February 23, 2024 at 09:19 AM

CW

“ *Cliff Wilson lit a candle in memory of Thelma "Bootsie" Bell*



Cliff Wilson - February 22, 2024 at 08:33 PM

CF

“ *CONNIE L FITHIAN lit a candle in memory of
Thelma "Bootsie" Bell*



CONNIE L FITHIAN - February 22, 2024 at 08:17 PM

SJ

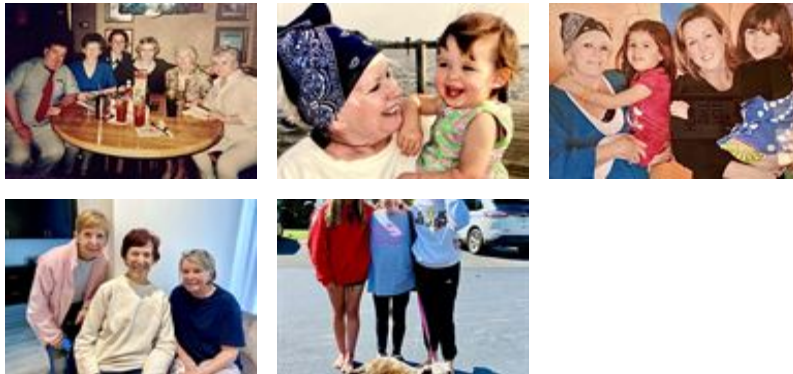
“ *Suzanne Jackson sent a virtual gift in memory
of Thelma "Bootsie" Bell*



Suzanne Jackson - February 22, 2024 at 06:06 PM



“ *13 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - February 22, 2024 at 03:19 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thelma "Bootsie" Bell.



February 22, 2024 at 02:13 PM



“ Moses & Lenore planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thelma "Bootsie" Bell.

Moses & Lenore - February 22, 2024 at 02:13 PM



“ 186 files added to the album LifeTributes



CHEERLEADERS



FIELDBALL



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - February 22, 2024 at 02:12 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Thelma "Bootsie" Bell.*



February 22, 2024 at 12:58 PM



“ *Mary F. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thelma "Bootsie" Bell.*

Mary F. - February 22, 2024 at 12:46 PM



“ *Charles & Donna Hubbard Edwards sent a virtual gift in memory of Thelma "Bootsie" Bell*



Charles & Donna Hubbard Edwards - February 22, 2024 at 11:11 AM



“ *Chris & Vivian Nordhoff lit a candle in memory of Thelma "Bootsie" Bell*



Chris & Vivian Nordhoff - February 21, 2024 at 07:05 PM

TQ

“ *Thelma Quinn lit a candle in memory of Thelma "Bootsie" Bell*



Thelma Quinn - February 21, 2024 at 05:42 PM

MC

“ *Melissa, Scott and Karly Coleman purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Thelma "Bootsie" Bell.*



Melissa, Scott and Karly Coleman - February 21, 2024 at 12:35 PM

MC

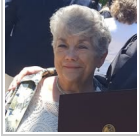
“ *Melissa, Scott and Karly Coleman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thelma "Bootsie" Bell.*

Melissa, Scott and Karly Coleman - February 21, 2024 at 12:35 PM

BP

“ *So sorry to hear of Bootsie's passing! She was such a kind loving person! I LOVED her Grand mother [Aunt Julia] who would babysit me when I was little. Aunt Julia and my mother were 1'st cousins and lived in a trailer on our property. I always thought Bootsie was so beautiful. RIP Cousin.*

Butch Price - February 21, 2024 at 11:36 AM



“ Nancy Toy lit a candle in memory of Thelma "Bootsie" Bell



Nancy Toy - February 21, 2024 at 09:33 AM



“ Nancy Toy lit a candle in memory of Thelma "Bootsie" Bell



Nancy Toy - February 21, 2024 at 09:32 AM



“ Melinda Blyman lit a candle in memory of Thelma "Bootsie" Bell



Melinda Blyman - February 20, 2024 at 11:41 PM



“ Butch Coleman lit a candle in memory of Thelma "Bootsie" Bell



Butch Coleman - February 20, 2024 at 10:38 AM

DH

“ *Denny And Judy Hickman lit a candle in memory of Thelma "Bootsie" Bell*



Denny and Judy Hickman - February 20, 2024 at 09:47 AM

RK

“ *Ruth Kerr lit a candle in memory of Thelma "Bootsie" Bell*



Ruth Kerr - February 20, 2024 at 09:10 AM

MU

“ *Marie Usilton lit a candle in memory of Thelma "Bootsie" Bell*



Marie Usilton - February 20, 2024 at 04:07 AM

BG

“ *BettyAnn Glenn sent a virtual gift in memory of Thelma "Bootsie" Bell*



BettyAnn Glenn - February 19, 2024 at 09:32 PM

NH

“ Nancy Hubbard lit a candle in memory of
Thelma "Bootsie" Bell



Nancy Hubbard - February 19, 2024 at 09:24 PM

DH

“ Donna Hollett lit a candle in memory of
Thelma "Bootsie" Bell



Donna Hollett - February 19, 2024 at 08:02 PM

JE

“ Jo Ann Edwards lit a candle in memory of
Thelma "Bootsie" Bell



Jo Ann Edwards - February 19, 2024 at 07:40 PM

BB

“ great hairdresser and good friend I always
remember her little pink dogs she would bring
to ferry park



Brenda Biddle - February 19, 2024 at 06:50 PM



“ *Sherrie Jacobs lit a candle in memory of
Thelma "Bootsie" Bell*



Sherrie Jacobs - February 19, 2024 at 05:33 PM



*My friend form high school and hairdressing school we attended
together in 1962 so sorry*

Rosanne Piper - February 20, 2024 at 09:19 PM