



Esta Barnes

December 6, 1923 - May 9, 2020

Esta Wheeler Barnes

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Esta Wheeler was born in Louisville, Kentucky. She and her brother Shelby were raised by their grandmother Mima Jane Mathews in Wheelers Mill and Big Clifty, KY. In 1944, Esta joined the WAVES (Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service) in the Navy. Basic training was “Boat Camp” at Hunter College in the Bronx. She had Hospital Corps training in Bethesda, MD and was sent to the U.S. Naval Hospital and Naval Training Center in Bainbridge, MD. She worked as a dental assistant as Pharmacist Mate, 3rd Class. After World War II ended, Esta was discharged in October 1945. The GI bill helped her earn a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene from the University of Southern California in 1952. She moved to Bakersfield in 1952 before the July earthquake. Her co-worker, Cuba, introduced her to Samuel “Sam” Barnes and they were married July 31, 1955. She helped support Sam while he attended the California College of Chiropody (Podiatry) in San Francisco. Children Bradley and Brenda were born before the family moved back to Bakersfield in 1962. Esta earned her real estate broker license in the 1970s and took a break from her work as a dental hygienist. She returned to dental work with Dr. Winegar and later the Drs. McMahon before retiring. She worked until her children completed college as her family’s education was of most importance. Sam and Esta enjoyed traveling all over the world. Esta

enjoyed drawing pastels. She was a cat lover. Esta and Sam were active members of the American Legion Post 26 and enjoyed many Friday night dinners at the legion hall. After Sam's passing in 2015, she moved to live with her daughter Brenda. Esta is survived by her children Bradley (Julie) and Brenda, her grandchildren Katie, Kelly (Ian) Sholes, Laurie, Andrew (Kaylee) and Blake Grider, as well as two great-grandchildren Emersyn and Samuel Sholes.

The family is indebted to Esta's special caretakers Alice Gonzalez, Jan Shepherd, Mely Hernandez, and Rose Elliott. We also thank David Dougherty, MD for his excellent care of Sam and Esta over many years.

A service will be held at the Bakersfield National Cemetery where she will be laid to rest next to her husband.

Cemetery Details

Bakersfield National Cemetery

30338 E Bear Mountain Blvd
Arvin, CA 93203
(661) 867-2250

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

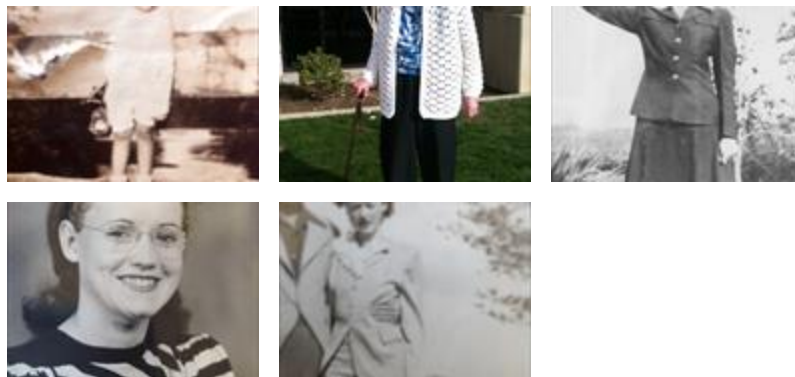


“ R.I.P., Esta. You lived a long and fruitful life, and leave a legacy of a wonderful and loving family.

John Whitehouse - May 26, 2020 at 01:26 PM



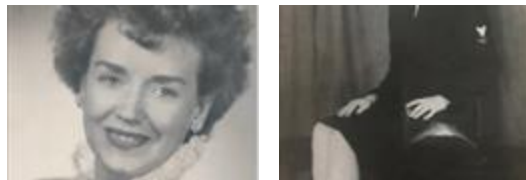
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