



## Milda M. "Millie" Croley

November 7, 2019

Croley, Milda M. "Millie", of Knoxville, was promoted to Heaven on Thursday, November 7, 2019. She was a dedicated Christian who surrendered her heart and life to Christ at the age of 27. She loved God and treasured His Word, the Holy Bible; reading it through many times. She was a faithful member of the Knoxville Baptist Tabernacle, and the Sunday School secretary there for over 40 years. Her husband, James C. "Jim" Croley, the love of her life and whose marriage of 55 years was, in reality, a love story, preceded her to Heaven on February 24, 2008. She mourned his passing every day, until the very end. She loved traveling with her beloved husband-anywhere. They traveled throughout Europe and many places in the U.S.; taking impromptu trips with family and friends. She especially loved hiking in the great Smokey Mountains. She enjoyed and appreciated its natural beauty; the rivers, waterfalls, rocks, the beautiful Rhododendrons, Mountain Laurels and other bountiful native plants. She was an active member of Covenant Health 50+ Fitness Program since February 2003. There, she established lasting friendships with many of the members whose friendship she valued and respected. Over the years, she has written letters to the Knoxville News Sentinel, federal, local and state representatives expressing her opinion and concern involving local and world affairs. Neither did she hesitate to send a congratulatory message to those (leaders) who chose to stand firm and true on the, oral issues that would affect little children; our nation, state and community. She was particularly concerned for the youth of our nation, taking a firm stand against pornography and upholding the value and life of the unborn. She dearly loved her family, her grand and great grandchildren, and they loved her. They all were so precious to her; gathering often for special occasions with all member being notified and expected to attend. She was always there to encourage them and lend a helping hand. To those who knew her personally and business-wise, she was a person known to keep her word. Her friends found her to be a true friend. One that was honest, kind, thoughtful, dependable and unpretentious. Other than her beloved husband, she was preceded in her home-going to Heaven by two infant children; James Christopher and Vicki Diane. Her parents; Rev. Ivory J. and Irene Kilby. Sisters; Ruth Amonett, and Martha Dishman, Brothers; Chester and Lester Kilby. She is survived by her daughters; Connie M. Ashford and husband John of Greer, SC.; Sheila J. Swaggerty of Knoxville, TN., and former son-in-law, Danny

Swaggerty. Goddaughter: Valerie McDaniel-Garner whom she loved dearly; who was always available to lend a helping hand, Three grandsons: Jason and Chris Swaggerty (Dallas) of Knoxville, TN., Christian Ashford of Cullowhee, NC., Two granddaughters: Jama M. Swaggerty of Knoxville, TN., and Chelsey Ashford of Greenville, SC., "her little angels". Twelve great grandchildren: Austin, Shala, Dalyn, Emma, Shawn, Brady and Avery Swaggerty, Treigh West and Demi Pate; Ahzyah, Ahmya, and John Rancher, and two great great-grandchildren: Haven Connor and Luna Johnson. She loved each one of them equally. Brothers: Clay Kilby (Helen) and Robert Kilby (Ailene) of Grandview, TN. Sisters: Susie Murphy, Mary Horan (Les); brother-in-law Alfred Dishman, of Crossville, TN. There are many close relatives, special nieces and nephews whom she kept in close contact with, and a host of dear friends. She loved her church family and cherished their sweet Christian friendship. The family will receive friends from 12:00 pm until 2:00 pm Sunday, November 10, 2019 at Rose Mortuary Broadway Chapel 1421 N. Broadway, Knoxville, TN 37917. Funeral services will follow at 2:00 pm, with Pastor Tony Greene and Brother Bob Evans officiating. Family and friends will gather at the entrance to Greenwood Cemetery following the service for a 3:00 pm graveside service. At her request, in Lieu of flowers, memorials contributions may be made to the Knoxville Baptist Christian School (KBCS), 2434 E. Fifth Ave, Knoxville, TN 37917; where young boys and girls are taught about the love and saving grace of Jesus Christ. All gifts will be appreciated and graciously acknowledged. Pallbearers will be: son-in-law, John Ashford; grandsons: Jason and Chris Swaggerty and Christian Ashford. Granddaughters: Jama Swaggerty, Chelsey Ashford and grand daughter-in-law, Dallas Swaggerty. Online condolences may be extended at [www.rosemortuary.com](http://www.rosemortuary.com).

# Events

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**NOV 10** **Visitation** 12:00PM - 02:00PM  
Rose Mortuary Broadway Chapel  
1421 N. Broadway, Knoxville, TN, US

**NOV 10** **Funeral Service** 02:00PM  
Rose Mortuary Broadway Chapel  
1421 N. Broadway, Knoxville, TN, US

# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**Rose Mortuary** - November 10, 2019 at 11:59 AM

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“ Our prayers are with your family. Millie was my faithful prayer. She will be dearly missed.

Dan & Loretta Bryant.

**Tonya Yarbrough** - November 13, 2019 at 02:12 PM

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“ Millie is such a Godsend for us all. Alexis Yarbrough received letters and cards for many years, from Millie, while Alexis was going through cancer treatments. As soon as she saw the envelope, Alexis would get a huge smile. Millie, my family will miss you on Earth, but will enjoy our reunion in Heaven.

Pat, Tonya, Tre, Alexis Yarbrough  
(KBCS alumni)

**Tonya Yarbrough** - November 13, 2019 at 02:07 PM

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“ Ms. Croley was my neighbor where I lived and was raised in Karns. She was a very friendly and spiritual influence towards me. I am sad to hear of her passing. I was in church this morning and couldn't be there in time. My prays go out to all the family. I know she is in a happier place with Mr. Croley. We all very fortunate to have such wonderful neighbors.

**Jeff Ledford** - November 10, 2019 at 02:42 PM

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“ 157 files added to the album LifeTributes



Rose Mortuary - November 10, 2019 at 11:47 AM

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“ We are first cousins and had not seen each other in years. My Dad Elmer and her dad Ivory were brothers. God Bless u all. Sorry for ur loss

Joyce Kilby Elmore - November 07, 2019 at 07:52 PM

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“ Aunt Millie was a beautiful soul, with a heart of gold. She knew how to love others, and spread the Gospel of Christ. She will be dearly missed. May God comfort each of you and keep you all under his wings.

Love In Christ,  
Sissy Murphy Peeples

**Mary Peeples** - November 07, 2019 at 03:33 PM



“ Aunt Millie was a wonderful person.  
I am glad I got to see her in September. Had a great day spending time with her. Love and will miss you.  
You were an angel on Earth as you are now in heaven .

Love your niece,  
Sherry Warth

**Sherry** - November 07, 2019 at 04:11 PM



“ Aunt Millie I always loved the beautiful person you were, I wished we had lived closer to each other over the years, but you were always in my heart. I know you are having a great celebration and family reunion in Heaven today, I know you and Mom will have a lot to talk about. I can only imagine the glory you are experiencing . RIP

**Pansy ( Amonett ) Daniels** - November 07, 2019 at 04:36 PM



“ Momma, you were and always be my role model. I'm so proud to be your daughter. I love you more than words can say. You were such a beautiful, caring, loving person who loved the Lord with all your heart. I know you are now with Daddy in heaven continuing your love story! We will miss you oh so much. I love you momma.

**Connie Ashford** - November 08, 2019 at 12:51 PM



“ So very sorry for your loss, prayers to you all

**Jamie Price Payne** - November 08, 2019 at 08:06 PM



“ Love & prayers for the family. I went to church with Millie years ago and she was a great friend.

**Vicki French** - November 09, 2019 at 01:38 PM



“ The Russell's would all like to express our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Croleys family. We always loved talking with her when we returned to the Tabernacle. As a kid I always enjoyed talking with Mr. Jim at church, especially about golf!  
The Tabernacle, her family and friends lost a dear sweet Christian lady but praise the Lord we will meet again in our permanent home!  
We love you all, we miss you and we'll pray for everyone who's life Mrs. Croley touched.

**Bryan Russell** - November 10, 2019 at 12:58 AM