



Patsy Keenum

February 24, 1941 - June 18, 2025

Born in Booneville, Mississippi, Patsy was a bright and curious learner who graduated with honors from Booneville High School in 1959. She was a proud member of the Booneville Beta Club, served as editor-in-chief of *The Hi-Boone*, and held the role of secretary for the Mississippi Scholastic Press Association. During her senior year, she met Thomas Keenum, a senior at Jumpertown High School. The two were married on June 1, 1960, and later welcomed their only child, Thomas Douglas Keenum Jr., on February 10, 1962. Patsy and Thomas remained devoted partners for 65 years.

After high school, Patsy began working at the Prentiss County Power Association, quickly rising to become office manager. She served there for 21 years. Early in their marriage, she worked long hours while raising their young son to support Thomas as he pursued a law degree. She also helped purchase a home for her in-laws—an early example of the generosity and determination that would define her life. Following her retirement from the workforce, Patsy returned to school and earned a Bachelor of Science in Art from Northeast Community College with a perfect 4.0 GPA. Art was her lifelong passion, and she continued her studies for many years. A respected artist in her community, she curated local gallery spaces, including *Sketches and The Gallery*, in partnership with family friend and designer Tim Pierce. Patsy hosted numerous art classes and events, collaborating with

notable artists such as Jeanne Down and the late Billy Kirk. Her paintings grace homes across Mississippi and beyond.

Patsy's dedication to service extended far beyond the arts. She was an active member of the Business and Professional Women's Club, where she served as president and was honored as "Woman of the Year." She was also a member of The American Cancer Society and as an asthma sufferer worked tirelessly on committees that helped establish non-smoking areas years before such laws were enacted. She was an avid reader, skilled gardener, bridge player, and enthusiastic traveler. She loved to learn, to laugh, and to nurture—whether it was people, plants, or animals. Among her beloved pets was her precious Yorkshire Terrier "Sunshine" named after the John Denver song.

Patsy was known for her loyalty, empathy and unwavering belief in fairness and integrity. She was a steadfast friend and a nurturing presence to both family and chosen family. Many considered her a second mother, and her unwavering support was a constant through life's most difficult times. Patsy was strong in her faith and recovery. A member of West Booneville Church of Christ, she later found healing and strength through her work at the Experiential Healing Center in Memphis, where she not only pursued her own recovery but actively helped others on their journey.

She is survived by her loving husband, Thomas Keenum; her son, Tommy Keenum; and son-in-law, Scott Douglas. She is also survived by her siblings: Peggy (Geno) Jobe, Diane (Johnsey) Wilson, and Jr. Geno; as well as in-laws: Sharon Smith, Judy Geno, Earnest Jobe, Billy Bolden, and the late Joey Johnsey and Elmo Wilson. Nieces and nephews include Melissa (Jobe) Pittman, Allison (Johnsey) Rowell, Tracy Bolden, Hope (Geno) McCoy, Mark Jobe, Joseph Johnsey, and Manny Geno

Patsy was particularly close to her in-laws and cared for Thomas's

parents throughout their life. She also enjoyed close and loving relationships with his siblings and their families. On her behalf the family extends heartfelt thanks to the lifelong friends and relatives who remained a steady support through the final chapter of Patsy's life. As a devoted wife, mother, sister, artist, and friend, Patsy Keenum made the world more beautiful and compassionate simply by being in it. She will be deeply missed.

Condolences may be extended to the family at boonevillefuneralhome.net