



## Catherine "Kitty" Leah Rueseler

December 15, 1925 - June 12, 2016

Catherine "Kitty" Leah Rueseler passed away on Sunday, June 12, 2016 at The Chateau Girardeau. A native of Waynesboro, Burke County, Georgia, she was born December 15, 1925 to Joseph and Bertha McGowan.

She attended school in Augusta GA, and graduated from Augusta Jr. College. During World War II she was employed as a secretary at the Augusta Arsenal.

On October 24, 1944 Kitty attended an "officers only" dance at Ft. Gordon GA. Her future husband, Vinson "Vince" Rueseler, had just arrived at Ft. Gordon, but because he was not an officer he was not invited to the dance. With determination like many of the Greatest Generation he scaled the drainpipe of the building and entered through a second story window. After observing quietly for a while he spotted Kitty on the dance floor and asked her to dance. While others cut in to dance he made sure he had the last dance of the night because that soldier was given the privilege of walking her to the bus that she would take back to town. She gave him her phone number that night and he kept it in his wallet until his death on March 30, 1998.

Kitty and Vince were married March 3, 1945. Following the war they returned to Vince's hometown of Cape Girardeau, MO. While primarily a homemaker Kitty also worked for a time at Rueseler Chevrolet and the First Presbyterian Church of Cape Girardeau.

Kitty was a longtime and active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Cape Girardeau. She was also a 48 year member of Chapter GF, P.E.O. Sisterhood. She was an avid bridge player.

As her dear friend Madge Ridings wrote, "She was so Southern and had her own 'Southern language'. She loved people and was loved dearly in return. She was such a devoted friend and let one know it. She was a marvelous cook and proved it often with her dinners and thoughtful gifts. She loved life and was such a delight to be around. She lived life to the fullest. She was beautiful and such a Christian lady."

Kitty is survived by her 4 children: Vicki (Jim) Overstreet of Madison, MS, John Rueseler of Houston, TX, Catherine Lowes of Jackson, MO, and Rob (Janet) Rueseler of Cape Girardeau, MO, 7 grandchildren: Olivia Wells, Leah Overstreet, Will Overstreet, Amanda Walker, Mesha Aroutsidis, Drew Lowes, and Eric Rueseler, and 15 great-grandchildren.

She is also survived by her brothers and sisters: Eleese Morgan and Martha Tudor of Augusta, GA, Joe (Jeannie) McGowan Jr. of Savannah, GA, Carl McGowan and Bill (Linda) McGowan of Evans, GA, and Leon McGowan of Brashton, GA, and her sister-in-law Ruth Knote of Cape Girardeau.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and her good friend and neighbor Dr. Earl Johnson.

The visitation for Kitty Rueseler will be at Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel in Cape Girardeau on Friday, June 17, from 4 - 7 pm. The funeral will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Cape Girardeau on Saturday, June 18, at 10 a.m. The Reverend Dr. Kim Nelson will officiate.

Burial will follow at Cape County Memorial Park.

The family requests that memorials be given to the First Presbyterian Church of Cape Girardeau or to the SoutheastHEALTH Cancer Center in honor of the excellent care she received. From the valet parkers, receptionists, nursing staff, office staff, volunteers, and her wonderful Dr. Andrew Moore she was treated with such care, dignity and respect.

# Cemetery Details

## Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery

2315 Highway 61 North  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701  
(573) 334-1909  
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JUN 17.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel  
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

## Service

**JUN 18.** 10:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church  
235 Broadway  
Cape Girardeau, MO

# Tribute Wall

RH

“ *My condolences to the Rueseler family. Sorry to hear about your loss.*

Robert Hale - June 18, 2016 at 02:46 PM

TH

“ *Dear Family of Kitty,  
It was such a joy to know your loved one. We had a lot of laughs at bridge and over the dining room table. Our knee surgeon, who later was Kitty's doctor, asked me if all the people in Cape Girardeau talked like Kitty. We loved her Georgia accent.  
It is our prayer that God will give you strength for each new day, and that the wonderful memories you shared will bring much comfort!  
We are sorry to miss the visitation and service, but we are in Virginia attending our grandson's high school graduation.  
God's love and ours,  
Dr. Harold and Jeanine Hager*

The Hagers - June 18, 2016 at 12:13 PM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Catherine "Kitty" Leah Rueseler.*



June 16, 2016 at 11:40 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Catherine "Kitty" Leah Rueseler.*



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June 16, 2016 at 09:13 AM



“ *Dear Rueseler family,*

*We are so saddened by the loss of your beloved Kitty, our dear friend of so many years. We are especially sorry that we are so many miles away at this time and unable to attend Kitty's visitation and service. Please know that we will keep you in our prayers.*

*Lovingly,  
Ed and Sue Burford*

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**Ed and Sue Burford** - June 15, 2016 at 10:10 PM



“ *I only met Cat one time, but it was enough to fill me with joy and thankfulness to last a lifetime. She was a very special person. Heaven is rejoicing to have her there!!! Heaven's gain, our loss.*

*Frances Tannehill, Winder, Ga.*

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**Frances Tannehill** - June 15, 2016 at 05:29 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Catherine "Kitty" Leah Rueseler.



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June 15, 2016 at 10:55 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage* was purchased for the family of Catherine "Kitty" Leah Rueseler.



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June 15, 2016 at 10:29 AM