



RUBY IRENE JOLLY BATES

November 12, 2025

Ruby Irene Jolly Bates, age 96, passed away peacefully at home in Pleasant Grove on November 12, 2025, surrounded by her family. Born and raised in Brighton, Alabama, Irene grew up with strong family roots and a deep love for her community.

She married the love of her life, Houston E. “Red” Bates, Sr., just one week before he was deployed to Japan during WWII. Upon his return, they began their family and made their home in the Glen Oaks area of Fairfield. Irene and Red were lifelong members of Fairfield Highlands Baptist Church, where Irene joyfully served and taught children for many years. In later years, they made their home in Bessemer.

Irene was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and sister. Her selfless love for others was evident in the many meals, homemade treats, and acts of kindness she shared throughout her life.

She is preceded in death by her beloved husband of 71 years, Houston E. “Red” Bates, Sr.; her parents, Gladys and John Casper Jolly; her brothers, J. T. Jolly and James Jolly; and her sisters, Louise Williams, Joyce Mead, and

Ann Marler. Irene is survived by her children, Houston Eugene Bates, Jr. (Patty) and Eric Bates (Julie); her grandchildren, Brandon Bates and Ashley Bates Hillerich (Hart); and her sister, Bobbie Carter.

Irene's life was a testament to love, faith, and generosity. She will be deeply missed and forever cherished by those who knew and loved her.

The visitation will be from 1:00 PM until 2:00 PM, Monday, November, 17, 2025, at Peoples Chapel Funeral Home. The funeral service will be at 2:00 PM at the Funeral Home, with Rev. Dr. Daven Watkins officiating. Burial will follow at Highland Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations be made to Operation Christmas Child at First Baptist Church Pleasant Grove.

Tribute Wall

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“ *Brian, Laura and Lettie Martin purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of RUBY IRENE JOLLY BATES.*



Brian, Laura and Lettie Martin - November 14, 2025 at 01:56 PM