



## ArDell J. "Mickey" Kester

March 3, 1929 - April 29, 2021

ArDell J. "Mickey" Kester went home to be with her Heavenly Father after a brief illness on April 29, 2021.

Mickey was born in South Bend, Indiana on March 3, 1929. She became a world traveler as a devoted Army wife to her beloved husband of 57 years, SFC Delnar Paul Kester retired, who preceded in her death on March 20, 2016. They were married for 57 years. Mickey and Paul made the Carrollton area their home upon retirement.

Mickey was a domestic engineer devoted to the health and well being of her family. But don't let that fool you because Mickey was a pioneer for women's rights. She was a divorced single mother in the 1950's, she single-handedly owned and operated a Union 76 full service gas station while her husband Paul was deployed overseas during the gas crisis of the 1970's, and it was her personal mission for her children to know how to drive and financially support themselves.

Spending time gardening and fishing were lifelong favorite activities for Mickey. She was feisty about her Pittsburgh Steelers and shopping with her was an adventure. The best thing about Mickey was that she was the best friend you will ever have.

Mickey leaves behind her children, Linda Kester of Johnson City, Texas; Lisa

Kester (Bill Noble) of Carrollton, Ohio; Paul Kester of Fairview Heights, Illinois; daughter in law, Robin Gilliland of Mishawaka, Indiana; six grandchildren, John Seaburn, Christian Aguirre, Shaun Seaburn (Tinah Seaburn), Maryn Kester, Grace Kester, Hannah Kester; four great-grandchildren, Riley Aguirre, Layton Aguirre, Colton Seaburn, Nevaeh Seaburn; her brothers, Harry and David Mathes of Mishawaka, Indiana; her sister, Mary Mathes of South Bend, Indiana, many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Mickey was also preceded in death by her son, Stephen Grey Gilliland; her parents Chauncey and Helen Mathes; brothers, Joe and Al Mathes; her aunt and namesake, ArDell Salomon.

The family would like to thank Crossroads Hospice for their dedicated care of our beloved mother. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in Mickey's memory to Crossroads Hospice.

Funeral services for Mickey will be Saturday, May 8, 2021 at 11 a.m. at Dodds Funeral Home in Carrollton. Visitation will be Friday from 5-7 p.m. in the funeral home.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 7. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Dodds Funeral Home-Carrollton  
129 N Lisbon St  
Carrollton, OH 44615  
(330) 627-5505  
<https://www.doddsfuneralhomes.com/>

## Service

MAY 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

Dodds Funeral Home-Carrollton  
129 N Lisbon St  
Carrollton, OH 44615  
(330) 627-5505  
<https://www.doddsfuneralhomes.com/>

# Tribute Wall

LK

“ I am gathered here with you today to celebrate the life of my mother, Ardell Jeanette Kester who was nicknamed Mickey because that was the first word she spoke. We share the joy in the gift she was to us and the pain that her passing brings.

*My mom was beautiful, intelligent, talented and timeless. She was also a feisty, funny, independent woman. She was my rock and hero and taught me the value of hard work and dedication. She was a caring, supportive and loving wife, mother, sister, grandmother, aunt, and the best friend anyone could ever have and she didn't know a stranger.*

*Mom's legacy of love is reflected in her gardening. Mom loved to garden and took great pride in her flowers and she taught me the art of planting and growing. Gardeners are special people. It takes patience and perseverance and a love for living things to grow a garden or a beautiful flower.*

*As mom grew me, I was always well taken care of and held accountable for my choices, but more importantly, I was celebrated in the small and big things of my life.*

*It feels almost impossible to put words to the love I feel for my mother, but I will try. Her love gave me the foundation on which my life is built. She taught me to be caring, affectionate, forgiving and empathetic towards others. She taught me that integrity is the highest attribute of honor.*

*Mom taught me devotion as she loved and cared for my dad through four cancers as a result of agent orange exposure in Vietnam.*

*Mom taught me tolerance and appreciation for all people because she loved being an army wife and I was a world traveler with her. She taught me to celebrate the customs, culture, and traditions wherever our adventures took us in the United States and overseas.*

*Mom taught me to love nature as she loved hummingbirds and butterflies. Her favorite though were owls and she had a notable collection of owls. She loved lightening bugs, campfires and hobo pies. She loved to fish and boat with our dad on their pontoon boat on Atwood Lake.*

*Mom gave me the gift of dance as she loved to dance and I*

*remember putting on records from her teenage years and she would dance with me. She pursued ballet and tap lessons for me as a child and I pursued dance lessons as a teenager and adult. I in turn gave the gift of dance to my daughter and other students that I have taught dance.*

*Mom taught me good sportsmanship because she loved her Pittsburgh Steelers. Once I told her I thought Green Bay quarterback, Aaron Rodgers, was a handsome man. Mom said, oh no, there isn't a quarterback in the NFL as handsome or as good as Ben Roethlisberger.*

*I am most proud of mom's greatest personal achievement of being a pioneer for women's rights. Not by choice, but by circumstance, she was a divorced single mother in the 1950's who worked a full time professional job. She didn't let that stereotype define her and raised the bar for single mother's who followed in her footsteps. She single-handedly owned and operated a Union 76 full service gas station while our dad was deployed overseas during the gas crisis of the 1970's. Her voice and her leadership paved the way for women to stand tall in a business world dominated by men at the time. Mom guided me in my faith as a Christian as she herself had a strong faith in the Lord. She planted many seeds that took root in my heart. Before she became unresponsive, I was given the gift of conversation and closure with my mom. She told me she was ready to see Jesus and Dad. I told her that it was okay for her to go and that I would see her again when it was my time to go to my heavenly home.*

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**Linda Kester** - June 01, 2021 at 02:00 AM

LK

“*RIP Aunt Mickey! You were one of the strongest women I have ever known. I know you are at peace watching over us with Uncle Paul, Grandma and Grandpap Kester, Uncles Morris, Clarence, Rex, and Aunt Audrey. Even though you physically aren't with us anymore, you will always be in my heart and in my memories. You will be missed! I love you, Little Larry*”

Larry Kester - May 06, 2021 at 11:23 PM

LK

“*Lisa Kester lit a candle in memory of ArDell J. "Mickey" Kester*”



Lisa Kester - May 06, 2021 at 07:51 PM

LK

*Mom I still can't believe you are no longer with us. I will cherish all my memories of you. I will miss all of trips to the grocery store and you helping me cut your grass. It sure isn't the same cutting it now without you there. I love you and miss you dearly.*

Lisa Kester - May 06, 2021 at 07:56 PM

RG

“*Robin Gilliland lit a candle in memory of ArDell J. "Mickey" Kester*”



Robin Gilliland - May 01, 2021 at 05:20 PM



“ *She was the best mom and friend a daughter in law could hope for! I love her and miss her already and always! Robin Gilliland*

Robin Gilliland - May 01, 2021 at 05:12 PM



“ *Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of ArDell J. "Mickey" Kester.*



April 30, 2021 at 05:00 PM



“ *My husband and I were blessed to meet Mickey in 2017 during her stay with family in Texas. Mickey rode with us in the downtown Johnson City parade. It was really cold the night of the parade, so there was concern that she wouldn't enjoy herself. All of our worries quickly faded as soon as Mickey put that Minnie Mouse Santa hat on. I will fondly remember how cute Mickey was sporting that Minnie Mouse Santa hat, laughing, waving, and yelling "Merry Christmas" at the top of her lungs!*

Susie Skipwith - April 30, 2021 at 12:59 PM



“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



Susie Skipwith - April 30, 2021 at 12:56 PM

KR

“ Aunt Mickey was a dear Aunt to me! I loved celebrating her 50th wedding anniversary with her family that her children organized. A few years later we had a huge family reunion enjoyed by everyone, this was a great day! Now she is with her husband in Heaven! I will think of her often as she reminded me of my grandmother even sounded like her! Love you Aunt Mickey!!

Kristina M Mathes Roche - April 29, 2021 at 11:47 PM

KR

“ Kristina M Mathes Roche lit a candle in memory of ArDell J. "Mickey" Kester



Kristina M Mathes Roche - April 29, 2021 at 11:41 PM

AN

“ And all the Neices and Nephews purchased the Springtime Wishes for the family of ArDell J. "Mickey" Kester.



And all the Neices and Nephews - April 29, 2021 at 05:30 PM