



Roylyn Rita Barber

July 23, 1939 - December 22, 2025

Roylyn Rita (Barbier) Barber, age 86, passed away peacefully on December 22, 2025. She was born on July 23, 1939, in Marrero, Louisiana, to the late Rita Carbo Coker.

Roylyn was a woman of unmistakable spirit, often described as a “firecracker,” a “raging Cajun,” and “little but feisty.” She lived life unapologetically her way, leaving a lasting impression on everyone she met. Her life was rooted in faith, family, and her love for God.

An avid bowler, Roylyn bowled faithfully for 66 years and was a proud member of the Hohenwald bowling team known as The Golden Girls. Among her teammates, she earned the nickname “Sophia,” after the beloved Golden Girls character, as her quick wit and spitfire personality perfectly matched that of her namesake.

In 1984, Roylyn relocated from Louisiana to Hohenwald, Tennessee, to be closer to her husband’s family, whom she loved as her own. She especially cherished weekly Sunday dinners at her brother-in-law’s home, a tradition she greatly enjoyed.

Roylyn also loved to craft and create special items for her family, always giving from the heart. Even at the age of 86, she remained a devoted

volunteer at the Lewis County Senior Center, where she could be found whenever the doors were open. She was blessed with a treasured friendship in her best friend and loyal sidekick, Betty Collins.

She is survived by her daughter, Debbie (Mike) Harden of Tellico Plains, Tennessee; her son, Gary Lee Verdin of Meridian, Mississippi; her stepson, Douglas (Vicki) Barber, Jr.; her stepdaughter-in-law, Gina Barber; her brothers, John Coker, Sr., Ricky (Joy) Coker, Jerry Coker, and Jody Coker; brother-in-law Donnie Barber; sister-in-law Kathy (Bill) Sharp; sister-in-law LaQuita (CW) Carroll; ten grandchildren; twenty-three great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild, with another expected; and many extended family members and friends.

In addition to her parents, Roylyn was preceded in death by her stepfather, Jewel Ray Coker; her husband, Douglas Barber, Sr.; her sons, Allen James Verdin and Robert Noel Verdin; and her stepson, Tony "Pineapple" Barber.

Visitation with the family will be held on Friday, January 2, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Funeral services will begin at 2:00 p.m., with burial to follow immediately at Lewis County Memorial Gardens.

Cemetery Details

Lewis County Memorial Gardens

1014 Summertown Hwy
Hohenwald, TN 38462

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 2. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

McDonald Funeral Home, Inc. - Lewis County
20 West 2nd Avenue
Hohenwald, TN 38462
(931) 796-2207

Funeral Service

JAN 2. 2:00 PM (CT)

McDonald Funeral Home, Inc. - Lewis County
20 West 2nd Avenue
Hohenwald, TN 38462
(931) 796-2207

Burial

JAN 2. 3:00 PM (CT)

Lewis County Memorial Gardens
1014 Summertown Hwy
Hohenwald, TN 38462

Tribute Wall



“ McDonald Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Roylyn Rita Barber



McDonald Funeral Home, Inc - January 21 at 10:58 AM

LW

“ My name is Linda Watson. I was privileged to bowl with Roy on the Golden Girls team all last season. She was so much fun and I really miss her. My condolences to her family and her dear friend Betty Collins

Linda Watson - December 30, 2025 at 05:30 PM

SR

“ Roylyn was the first person to welcome me to the senior center. She was so sweet and nice to me. She will be missed



Shirley Rathier - December 30, 2025 at 02:45 PM

SR

“ Roylyn was the first person to welcome me at the senior center over a year ago. She was so sweet and friendly to me. She is missed so much.

Shirley Rathier - December 30, 2025 at 02:38 PM

MB

“ *Michael Bates sent a virtual gift in memory of Roylyn Rita Barber*



Michael Bates - December 29, 2025 at 08:36 AM

CL

“ *Carole Loveless lit a candle in memory of Roylyn Rita Barber*



Carole Loveless - December 28, 2025 at 08:40 PM

CD

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. Mom loved Aunt Roylyn and spoke of her often. I hope they're reuniting in heaven having a few laughs.*

Connie Domangue - December 27, 2025 at 07:27 PM

BD

I Surely do miss my Sweet Roylyn. I was blessed to have her ❤️ as my sister in law. Love and miss you girl. Love you Baby!!

Bill and Kathy Sharp mom and dad - March 13 at 03:50 PM