



## Bonnie E. Cary

June 12, 1941 - February 2, 2026

Bonnie E. Cary, 84, of New Castle, passed away peacefully on Monday evening, February 2, 2026, surrounded by the love and devoted care of her family, following a brief battle with cancer.

She was born on June 12, 1941, in Albany, Kentucky, a daughter of the late Leo and Alta (Murray) Cook. One of eight children, Bonnie was raised by a single mother—an upbringing that shaped her lifelong independence, resilience, and quiet self-confidence.

Bonnie was a 1959 graduate of Clinton County High School in Albany, Kentucky. She went on to graduate from Anderson University in 1975 as a Registered Nurse, answering a lifelong calling to care for others. For most of her career, she served as a psychiatric nurse, bringing wisdom, patience, and compassion to some of the most vulnerable individuals she encountered. She worked many years at the New Castle State Developmental Center and later continued her service in area nursing homes, migrant camps, and private homes, always meeting people where they were with dignity and respect.

A proud and deeply patriotic American, Bonnie chose to serve her country later in life, enlisting in the United States Air Force at the age of 48. She served for 13 years in the Air Force Reserves. Rising to the rank of Major, she was at one time the ranking officer of the 35th unit at Wright-Patterson Air

Force Base. During her military service, Bonnie cared for those injured in the Bosnian War—combining her nursing skills with her unwavering sense of duty.

Bonnie's commitment to service extended well beyond her profession. She was a member and the first female commander of American Legion Post #137, where she served on the board of directors and faithfully participated on the burial honors team for many years. Every Tuesday, she volunteered at the Christian Love Help Center, where she also served on the board, along with the Guest House Board and the Veterans Museum. She was a devoted member of First Baptist Church.

Bonnie was social, engaging, and genuinely interested in people. She had a giving heart and would gladly help anyone in need. Strong, wise, and self-assured, she also had an ornery streak and was known for her calm but honest way of telling people what they needed to hear. Those who knew her trusted her voice and respected her strength.

She enjoyed playing bingo, taking bus trips, shopping, and had a fondness for diamonds, high heels, and her beloved Corvette and Jeep. Above all else, Bonnie took immense pride in her grandchildren and loved hearing about their accomplishments and successes.

Those left to cherish Bonnie's memory include her two children, Mikki (Aaron) Smith and Michael (Allison) Cary, both of New Castle; four grandchildren, Skyler Ford, Kaitlynn Cary, Rheanne Cary, and Isaac Smith; her longtime companion, Bennie Rains of New Castle; her sister, Mary Lonell Cook of Louisville, Kentucky; a special nephew, Jamie Cross; and many other nieces and nephews. Bonnie is also survived by her trusted and loyal companion, Bandit.

She was preceded in death by her first love and the father of her children,

Freddie Cary; her son, Mitchell “Mitch” Cary, in 2023; and six brothers and sisters.

Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. Friday, February 6, 2026, at Sproles Family Funeral Home, with Dr. Jerry Ingalls officiating. Burial will follow at South Mound Cemetery West Lawn – Legion Square, with military honors conducted by Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Friends may call at the funeral home from 11:00 a.m. until the time of service on Friday.

You may send the family a personal condolence at [www.sprolesfamilycares.com](http://www.sprolesfamilycares.com).

The Sproles family and staff are deeply honored to serve the family of Bonnie E. Cary.

# Cemetery Details

## South Mound Cemetery West Lawn Addition

950 South Memorial Dr.  
New Castle, IN 47362

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 6. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Sproles Family Funeral Home  
2400 S Memorial Dr.  
New Castle, IN 47362

## Funeral

FEB 6. 1:00 PM (ET)

Sproles Family Funeral Home  
2400 S Memorial Dr.  
New Castle, IN 47362

# Tribute Wall

LR

“ On behalf of the Society of Air Force Nurses, please know we are mourning with you the death of our sister nurse, Major Bonnie E. Cook Cary. It takes a patriot, willing to give of themselves to other human beings in their time of need, to step forth and join the ranks of our U. S. Air Force Reserves Nurse Corps. Your beloved one will be mourned and missed by many who served alongside her. We will include her name in our Memorial Program of the Society of Air Force Nurses in commemoration of her life and service to our nation. With Sincerest Regards and Gratitude, Wendy S. Collins, Lt Col, USAF, Nurse Corps (Retired)



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**LtCol W Collins, USAF, NC, Ret** - February 10 at 09:33 PM

CH

“ Sir sorry for your loss. I worked with Bonnie for several years at NCSDC. Very nice lady. RIP Bonnie.

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**Carolyn House** - February 07 at 08:23 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. Prayers for comfort and peace.

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**Jan Hamby** - February 06 at 02:11 PM

RR

“ Rich and Amy Rottinghaus purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Bonnie E. Cary.



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**Rich and Amy Rottinghaus** - February 06 at 07:47 AM

EB

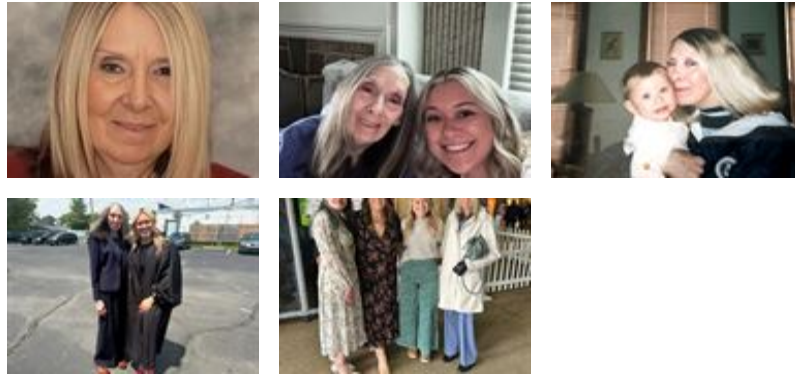
“ *Edith Byers lit a candle in memory of Bonnie Cary*



Edith Byers - February 05 at 07:38 PM



“ *93 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Sproles Family Funeral Home - February 05 at 05:13 PM

TR

“ *I met Bonnie as a child I went to school with Mitchell and she worked with my mother Marjorie Coatie at the New Castle Development Center for many years. I reconnected with Bonnie again at the Christian Love Help Center. She was a very special lady and she will be greatly missed.*

Tina (Coatie) Richey - February 05 at 10:41 AM

TJ

“ I knew Bonnie thru work at NCSH/Dev.Ctr.  
She was a kind lady always there to help. I've  
known her for many yrs.



Teresa (Smith) Jester - February 04 at 04:12 PM

RL

“ Thoughts and prayers sent to all Bonnie's  
loved ones.



ReBecca S. Lair - February 04 at 02:10 PM

AD

“ She was a wonderful person ❤️. She truly will  
be missed by many. 💕 Love you.



Anna Davis - February 04 at 02:06 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the  
family of Bonnie E. Cary.



February 04 at 11:31 AM

DT

“ Donna Thurman purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Bonnie E. Cary.



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**Donna Thurman** - February 04 at 10:18 AM

BC

“ I am so sorry for your loss. May God comfort you. As a new RN employee I trained Bonnie. Which was company policy at CCC. There after worked with her for a long period of time. We always laughed because we both were Bonnie's with C's for the last name. So, I became Bonnie 1 and she became Bonnie 2. After CCC closed its doors. I often saw her at the VFW eating breakfast or at a military funeral. I've only met a few Bonnie's in my life. I'll never forget Bonnie 2!

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**Bonnie Coates** - February 04 at 02:42 AM

LA

*My thoughts are with her children and family. I've always held deep respect and admiration for Bonnie.*

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**Lola Alley** - February 04 at 04:59 PM

AM

*I had the privilege of working with Bonnie at NCSH. Her obituary is a great tribute to the life she lead.*

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**Allice Meeks** - February 09 at 03:33 PM

JC

“ *Bonnie was a sweet lady. Prayers for Bennie and her family.* ”



Joyce Conyers - February 03 at 10:47 PM

EB

“ *My deepest condolences to the family of Bonnie. She was an amazing woman and always had a way of making you feel important. Have a dance with my dad. I'll see you again one day. I salute you.* 🕊️🇺🇸 ”



Edith Byers - February 03 at 10:01 PM

LJ

*Very sorry to hear this. But deepest condolences to Mickey, Michael, Benny and the family. I remember since 1989 when I first started coming to the Legion she was always there as an officer and upstanding member of the American Legion and the honor guard. Come rain snow sleater hail She was out there honoring our veterans at their funeral and gravesite. With honor and respect.  
Mark & Lisa Jasper*

Lisa Jasper - February 04 at 11:45 AM

DM

“ *Bonnie.. what a beautiful soul she was , and a good person, She was also my neighbor for almost 30 years and a good one. We used to talk about how we loved to decorate our porches with our lights I will miss seeing those, she turned them on even in the summer time and it was beautiful as was she, I will miss her And it was a privilege to have known her. My condolences to all of her family. Sincerely,  
Debra McGuire* ”

Debra McGuire - February 03 at 08:29 PM



“ *Mikki and Michael I am so sorry too here this. Sending you Hugs*  
*Vicky Raines*

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**Victoria Raines** - February 03 at 07:53 PM