



# **Rachel Sheffield Bickley Speicher**

JUN 27, 1921 - OCT 11, 2015



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# **Rachel Sheffield Bickley Speicher**

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**R**achel Sheffield Bickley Speicher, 94, passed away on Sunday, October 11, 2015. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2015, from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. at Watson-Hunt Funeral Home in Perry. Funeral Services will be on Wednesday, October 14, 2015, at 11:00 a.m. at Marshallville United Methodist Church. Entombment will be in the family mausoleum in Marshallville City Cemetery immediately following the service. In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests memorial donations be made to Marshallville United Methodist Church, P. O. Box 186, Marshallville, GA 31057.

Mrs. Speicher was born and raised in Colquitt, Georgia, and was the eldest of four children born to the late Corra Houston and John Walter Sheffield. She and her 3 siblings shared a remarkable bond that remained a blessing throughout their entire lives. Upon graduating from Miller County High School, Rachel went on to get her teaching degree from the Georgia Teachers College in Statesboro, Georgia. She was assigned to teach in Macon County, Georgia, where she met and married Alton Murray Bickley with whom she had 2 sons, Alton, Junior and John Sheffield Bickley. While living in Marshallville, Georgia, with her husband and raising her boys, Rachel taught in the Peach and Macon County school systems and was named Headmaster of Beechwood School in Marshallville. She was a tremendously strong believer in the importance of community service and proved her passion by serving on the City Council of Marshallville and acting as Mayor of Marshallville. She enjoyed being an active member of the Marshallville Garden Club and Marshallville United Methodist Church.

After losing her husband Alton, Rachel met and married Paul Speicher. She moved to enjoy her life with him in Delray Beach, Florida, in 1980. Upon marrying Paul, she embraced his family as if they were her own, and they, in turn, embraced her all the way up to the time of her death. She was always an active, adventurous soul and took great pleasure in travel, her tennis game, her book club, and her legions of friends. While in Delray Beach, Rachel was elected the first woman president of the Delray Beach Club, was a faithful member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and



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was a proud supporter of the St. Paul's thrift shop. In later life, Rachel moved to Macon, Georgia, to be closer to her family and was a resident of Carlyle Place. Her family much treasured having their beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and sister close to them geographically in the final years of her life. Rachel was predeceased by her husband, Alton M. Bickley; her husband, Paul W. Speicher, a brother, John W. Sheffield, Jr., and her sister, Dorothy S. Sammon.

The family will be forever grateful for the loving care provided to their dear Rachel by Ruthie Johnson, Annie Brown, Danielle Richardson, and Erica Porter.

Left to cherish the memories of Rachel are her her sons, Alton M. Bickley, Jr. (Terri), and John S. Bickley (Sally); her grandchildren, John S. Bickley, Jr. (Erin), Joseph K. Bickley, Alton M. Bickley, III, and Amy R. Bickley; 3 great-grandchildren, Kathryn R. Bickley, Ella S. Bickley, and John S. Bickley, III; and her brother, Scott Sheffield (Nancy).

Condolences for the family may be left in the online guestbook at [www.watsonhunt.com](http://www.watsonhunt.com). Watson-Hunt Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements.



## Tribute Wall

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**Leslie Wooddall** posted:

Hey John, Very sorry to hear about your Mom! She sounded like a great lady! My prayers go out to you and your family!

November 5 at 8:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

John, So sorry to hear of your mother's death. What a life she lived, though, and what a legacy she leaves. Bill and Molly Swan

October 21 at 8:00 PM



**Linda Bates** posted:

Ocean Place Condo Association will never be the same without Rachael. She will be sadly missed by all of us here at Ocean Place. Our thought and Prayers are with all her family. OP Board of Directors and neighbors.

October 16 at 8:00 PM



**Diane Roberts** posted:

The Delray Beach Club Staff and Management send our sincerest condolences to the entire family of such a wonderful, elegant lady, Rachel Speicher. We are blessed to have known her, she will definitely be missed by us all.

October 15 at 8:00 PM



**Frieda Fair** posted:

Rachel was a dear lady whom I always loved and admired. She was full of life and loved life. I still use the Marshallville cookbook that she and her friends created. Like many others, I treasure childhood memories of Rachel. My sincere condolences to her wonderful family.

October 13 at 8:00 PM



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BT

**Betsy Tyson** posted:

I always loved seeing Mrs. Speicher when she came into the Library all those years ago. Never without a smile, she added a very special touch of her southern charm to Delray Beach. I am very grateful that our paths crossed and I know that she will be missed terribly.

October 13 at 8:00 PM

DY

**Debra Davidson Yancey** posted:

~ Debra Davidson Yancey, Byron, Georgia

October 13 at 8:00 PM

PA

**Page & Bobby Allen** posted:

John and Al, we are so sorry to hear about Rachel. Know that we are thinking about you and praying for comfort for all of the family.

October 13 at 8:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

John,AL, Shep and family members of Ms. Rachel. Our thoughts and prayers are with you in the loss of your mother. She was a lovely woman who made everyone she meet feel like a friend. Ray and Shirley Odom, Byron Ga

October 13 at 8:00 PM

EN

**Edwin Nelson** posted:

My Prayers go out to Miss Rachel's Family. Miss Rachel was a great teacher and a lady who lead by example. Always been indebted to the Bickley Family from my "boyhood days". May God Bless!!

October 13 at 8:00 PM



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**Anonymous** posted:

No one I've ever known could match the sparkle in those twinkly eyes...and her laugh was infectious. She leaves such a wonderful legacy to the family and friends and communities that she cared so deeply about. My thoughts and prayers are with all you Bickley "boys" and your families. She's such a bright spot in my memories of the Ville.

October 13 at 8:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Al and John, I was so sadden to see a post of Mrs, Rachel's passing. What a true modern southern lady she was! If there ever was a Mrs Marshallville crowned it would be her. I pray you feel the love and hugs that I send to you!

October 13 at 8:00 PM



**Ann Tribble** posted:

Al, John and families sorry to hear about Ms Rachel! Prayers for all!

October 13 at 8:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Sorry that I never met her . She must have been a wonderful lady . She has left her 2 sons . I've had the pleasure of knowing them both & their wives & kids . What a wonderful legacy to leave behind. She's up there with some very wonderful people looking after all of us! I'm sorry for your loss. Lyn Neal, SSI , Ga.

October 13 at 8:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

~ Jesse and Kim Roberts

October 13 at 8:00 PM



**Cheryl Luckie** posted:

John & Al, we are so sorry for the loss of your sweet mother. She was always a true Southern Belle.

October 12 at 8:00 PM



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JA

**Julie Allen** posted:

Aunt Rachel was such a sweet and beautiful lady! I enjoyed getting to know her when I worked at Carlyle Place.

October 12 at 8:00 PM

AR

**Anne Wade Rittenberry** posted:

Everyone who knew "Miss Rachel" loved her. I know I did because she was such a great influence on us students -- so bright and energetic. She made learning exciting for us. She touched many lives and will be missed by all who knew her.

October 12 at 8:00 PM

VB

**Vicki (Law) Brakebill** posted:

Mrs. Rachel was such a remarkable lady! My thoughts and prayers are with her family.

October 12 at 8:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Prayers are being lifted up for your family. A special lady for sure. John Luckie

October 12 at 8:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Rachel was a beautiful and delightful lady. My thoughts and prayers for each of you.

October 12 at 8:00 PM

TM

**Tom Mcelheny** posted:

Marshallville and our collective memory are certainly diminished with the passing of Rachel Bickley. Her leadership skills and her wonderful sense of style will linger on the Crepe Myrtle long after dark lending Comfort to all bereaved.

October 12 at 8:00 PM



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CP

**Cathy Patterson** posted:

I am so sorry to hear of Miss Rachel's passing. She was an important "face" of my childhood in Marshallville. She also was one of my favorite teachers. What a good one she was! I am thinking of you all and praying that God gives you comfort.

October 12 at 8:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with the family. May God bless you in everyway. "Miss" Rachel was a sweetheart.....

October 12 at 8:00 PM

DB

**Deede Brooks Barker** posted:

Oh Sweet Rachel ! I thought the world of you and remember all the fun times I went with Jan to Marshalville ! Your whole family is wonderful and I shall never forget you ! Heaven has received another Angel ! Deede Brooks Barker

October 12 at 8:00 PM

EP

**Erica Porter** posted:

I entered into Rachel's life as caregiver but in just a years time I grew attached to her with a love most familiar to family. I even called her GMA sometimes, she was amazing and her accomplishments made her a role model in my eyes. I'll never forget the moments, the kisses, the days of not wanting help lol && jus her beautiful spirit!! Rest well dear, you will TRULY be missed

October 12 at 8:00 PM

TH

**The Staff Of Watson-Hunt Funeral Home** posted:

Offering our deepest condolences during this difficult time.

October 12 at 8:00 PM



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**Mary Golden** posted:

I will miss my sweet Aunt Rachel! We have made so many memories together. May you rest in peace Aunt Rachel.

October 11 at 8:00 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Rachel by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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