



## Lucille Ruth Hayes

November 5, 1926 - April 26, 2024

### In Loving Memory of Lucille Ruth Hayes

Our beloved mother, grandmother, and friend, Lucille Ruth Ritter-Hayes, passed away on April 26, 2024. She was 97 years old. Lucille was the heart of our family, leaving behind a legacy of love, generosity and thoughtful guidance.

She raised three children-Sharron Miles of Woodlake, Mark Thomson of Riverside, and Jodi Sanchez of Bakersfield. She instilled in them the values of independence, respect, and honesty. Her unwavering support and guidance shaped their lives.

Lucille Hayes cherished her role as a grandmother to Kim Keenan, Amy Grimaldo, Brandon Sanchez, and Kirstie Mawrence. Playing a role in raising each one of them and creating lasting memories for her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

As a friend Lucille's heart extended beyond her family. She had a lifelong friend Jayne McKernie who she remained very close. Always a great conversationalist, ready to lend an ear and offer sage advice. Her compassion touched the lives of many, and her friendships were genuine and lasting.

At Lucille's request, there will be no formal services. Instead, she wanted us all to share a laugh, a memory, a poem or verse in celebration of her journey home. Let us honor her memory by continuing her legacy of love, compassion, and giving.

"Goodbyes are not forever. Goodbyes are not the end. They simply mean I'll miss you until we meet again."

Rest in peace. You will be dearly missed, but your spirit lives on in our hearts.

Memorial services will be held 1:00 PM Sunday, May 19th, 2024 at Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel, 127 E. Caldwell Ave., Visalia.

Services have been entrusted to Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel. Memorial Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto [www.salseranddillard.com](http://www.salseranddillard.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial

MAY 19. 1:00 PM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel  
127 E. Caldwell Ave.  
Visalia, CA 93277

# Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Lucille Ruth Hayes*



---

**Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel** - May 16, 2024 at 05:29 PM



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Lucille Ruth Hayes*



---

**Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel** - May 16, 2024 at 01:55 PM

K-

“ My goodbye to my beautiful grandma. When I was a little girl, a ton of my most fondest memories were with you. Walking through your beautiful White House, with fancy white and gold furniture and seeing how perfectly you were and how perfectly you kept your home. Every time I drove up into that huge corner lot driveway, and looked at every flower and every bush and every tree and seen how perfect everything was. I told myself I wanted to be just like you. Every time I walked into your home I was always excited knowing that you and peanut would come and greet me with open arms and love me unconditionally. Your home always felt safe to me, and it felt like it was the only place I could go and know that I would love unconditionally. I would wake up in the morning and you would greet me and take me into the little room right outside of your kitchen and we would eat breakfast together. You would drink coffee and I would eat pop tarts, toast or a hard boiled egg and you'd drink coffee or a can of Tab soda and read your newspaper and tell me all about the world good and bad.. I love your little wiener dog peanut. I'm not sure who made me happier me or peanut. You loved that little wiener dog and so because I wanted to be just like you, so did I. I would venture down the hallway and look into aunt Jodi's room and see how perfect her room was as well and again I wanted to have a family just like you. Seeing aunt Jodi so much in love with uncle Joe and watching how proud you were of them, wanted me to find that relationship just like aunt Jodi and uncle Joe had. They were so good and we're so kind, went to college and did everything they were supposed to do. I dreamed someday that I would have that. As I got older I started to lose faith in myself and felt like I was being tossed around between family to family, you told me it was OK and told me I would find my way and because I had so many families it just meant I was more loved. I wasn't quite sure if you would ever be correct because I always felt like a broken little girl trying to figure out my way between all the families and trying to make everybody happy but still feeling so lost. It wasn't until other cousins came along that I finally started feeling like I wasn't alone anymore. But with that also came a strange feeling that I was no longer the only grandchild and I had to share what little time I did

have with you with others. I loved how you loved both Amy and I so much and how you never made me feel when I was little like you loved either one of us more than the other. I didn't have the easiest life growing up and you were the only one who knew what I was going through, how much pain I was in . When I couldn't tell anyone else, you were the only one I could break down to. The in and the outs of Kimi, the good the bad and ugly. There was sometimes I wished I hadn't told you so much because I knew how much it hurt you to hear what I was going through. I also appreciated how you were so straightforward with me. That's also about the time that I thought to myself that if I ever get to become a grandma someday that I would be just like you. I love going to your home and spending time with you. I loved sleeping in your remote movable bed. I treasured laying in bed and hearing all of your stories. The only one I remember hating was the one you told me about grandpa Bill. That one still haunts me to this day. I remember aunt Jodi and uncle Joe going on dates and you and I preparing frozen French bread pizza in the oven for dinner. I remember all the yummy snacks you had. And how you made me love avocados in my salad. My favorite past time was making shrinking with you and aunt Jody and watching them bake in the oven and toss and turn . You were always so amazing with crafts and I told myself I had to be amazing at arts and crafts just like you . I loved how you were so independent without a man and even though someday I wish to have a husband as my own you taught me how to be strong and to know how I could take on this world all by myself, even without a man by my side.. you were so proud of aunt Jodi and uncle Joe, planning their wedding and having babies also reminded me of who I wanted to be someday. I loved all the stories you told me about my dad and you always reminded me how much he loved me. I think you told me more stories about my parents than even they did at that time of my life. You made me imagine that it was some fairytale love and how they both loved me, but they were both so young that they needed to go on without each other. But again, even though they were apart, you continue to tell me that they still both love me very much and would always be there. I remember the day that you told me you were selling your home in California, and I remember how my

*life felt like it was ending that day. I cried my eyes out and told you I didn't want you to leave, but you told me financially it was the best thing to do and you want to be up with aunt Sharon, uncle Larry and Amy. I understood it even though I didn't like it, but I also knew you taught me not to be selfish. I watched you, I watched you pack up and I felt like a bit of me left with you.. even though I got to see you from time to time when you came down to visit aunt Jodi and the babies, it wasn't enough. I regret as I got older that I didn't take the time to go out to Visalia. I loved our going back-and-forth during the planning of aunt Jodi's wedding and our phone calls when I couldn't be there.. I love that you never miss my birthday. Again, when times were so hard and I thought the whole world was against me. I always knew on my birthday that the first card I would get would be one from you. When I started having babies, I was so sad that my babies didn't get a grandma like you who lived close. A grandma to tell them how beautiful they were and how strong they were and that they could do anything that they wanted to if they tried. I wish that they had a grandma that they could go spend the night with, watch dodger games with and go to craft shows with. Again, I told myself one day when I became a grandma. I would do all those things that my grandma did with me. A wrote a story when I was in elementary school about how great my grandma was and how someday I wanted to become just like her. I love you more than you'll ever know. I am so sorry that I did not get to be closer to you at the end and I am so sorry that I missed out on so much time with you. Although i have some good news grandma ....I grew up to be just like you. I love you. Thank you for being so beautiful and teaching me to love.*

---

**Kimberly Keenan -AKA-Kimi** - May 19, 2024 at 06:02 PM

AG

“ 3 files added to the album *Family and Friends*



---

**Amy Grimaldo** - May 16, 2024 at 07:17 PM