



Sylvia Garren Townsend

December 6, 1943 - February 18, 2021

Conway...

Sylvia Garren Townsend, age 77, passed away Thursday, February 18, 2021 surrounded by her family.

Born December 6, 1943 in Murrells Inlet, she was the daughter of the late Bertrand and Edna Dunn Garren. Mrs. Townsend was a devout Christian and was faithful to the Methodist church. She retired from Allstate as an insurance agent after 24 years. Mrs. Townsend loved her grandchildren dearly and enjoyed spending time with them following her retirement.

Along with her parents, she is predeceased by a son, Michael Joby Brown, two brothers, and four sisters.

Surviving are her husband of 47 years, Tom F. Townsend; three sons, Stephen Mark Brown (Karen), Jeffrey Russell Brown (Tina), and John Bradley "Brad" Townsend (Candy); and six grandchildren, Adin, Talia, Taylor, Trevor, Matthew, and Kiley.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, PO Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123.

Please sign the online guestbook at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel is serving the family.

Tribute Wall

“*"Sibby" and I are first cousins. A year apart in age, she and I grew up together, playing house, sling-the-biscuit, London Bridge, and whatever else could be played in Aunt Edna and Uncle Bert's yard. She and her older sisters Laura and Sarah seemed to me to be the funniest, most clever people I knew. As we went through adolescence, she was about the closest girl friend I had, something not to sneeze at for an awkward boy trying to learn how to be accepted. Like all good friends, we had our spats; but far more times in my memory are hysterically laughter, honest sharing, and--for two kids--pretty deep conversations about things that mattered.*

But the very best memories of them all date from the summer of 1956. The Garrens had moved from Myrtle Beach to Murrells Inlet where they lived in a duplex alongside Mr. and Mrs. Smith down on the creek, the channel that had been dredged along and below the old dirt road that ran under moss-hung branches of live oak. We rose early, and as soon as we dressed and woofed down breakfast, headed to the water, At high tide, we'd swim. At low tide, we'd wade or go crabbing. Last I was there--years ago now--all had changed, in part radically altered by Hurricane Hugo, and lost to developers. Not, however, lost to my sense of home and kinship. Sometimes when I get into a reverie of bygone years, I am Frank at 11, walking with Sibby down past the old mysterious Victorian house with its creaky wooden fence, its high hollyhocks, a place called Vauxhall, on our way to get a 25-cent ice cream cone at Eason's store, her curly syrup-colored hair as pretty as a movie star's.

The last time I saw her was not quite twenty years ago. We had dinner one night at the Olive Garden in Myrtle Beach. Her laugh hadn't changed, nor, I think had she. I shared with her the circuitous path of my own life and she shared a bit of her own. Before I left, we went out towards her car, where she produced a newspaper clipping saved by Aunt Edna in her Bible, of all places: a photo of me when I was four and had just won first prize in Conway's Kiddie Parade dressed up as a little girl In clothes that (so said the headline) replicated "The New Look," the postwar fashion marker. We

laughed.

"Yep, that was you, all right," she said with her bubbly laugh.

I thanked her.

We drove off our separate ways into the new night.

—Frank Dunn
Palm Springs, California

Frank Gasque Dunn - February 26, 2021 at 11:24 PM

CJ

“Kirk and I were so sorry to hear about Aunt Sibby’s passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. -Kirk and Cathy Johnson

Cathy Johnson - February 24, 2021 at 09:12 PM

WC

“Tom, I am sorry for your loss. Know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family now and in the days ahead. May each of you be wrapped in God's loving comfort.

Wanda Causey - February 22, 2021 at 11:57 AM

SB

“2 files added to the album Memories Album



Stephen M Brown - February 22, 2021 at 11:57 AM

MO

“ I’m so sorry to hear about Sylvia’s passing. I will pray for peace and comfort for you and your family.

Melissa Zmich Obrien - February 20, 2021 at 09:48 PM

TA

“ Mark, I am sorry to hear about your mother's passing. I know this has to be a difficult time for your family. 🙏🥺

Tambra - February 19, 2021 at 08:40 PM

WC

“ On behalf of the entire Conway Kiwanis Club, our thoughts and prayers go out to the Townsend family. May our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ grant you peace and comfort during this time of sorrow.

Wayne Chandler - February 19, 2021 at 04:29 PM

HH

“ I was so sorry to hear of Sylvia's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Hugh Huggins - February 19, 2021 at 03:28 PM

ET

“ Tom and family. Sorry to hear of Sylvia’s passing. My thoughts and prayers to the family

Eddie Tarte - February 19, 2021 at 03:17 PM