



Doris Ellen Bagby

November 19, 1937 - November 28, 2025

Doris Ellen (Patterson) Bagby, 88, of Mason City, IL, passed away peacefully at her home on November 28, 2025. She was born in Mason City on November 19, 1937 to Gerald and Esther (Shawgo) Patterson. She grew up alongside her brothers Bob and Wayne (who both preceded her in death in July 2025), and her sister Elsie Mann, who lives in Woodinville, WA.

On October 1, 1955, Doris married Howard Merlin Bagby. He loved her dearly and pestered her often. He preceded her in death in 2008.

She is survived by her sons: Howard Bagby of Calhoun, GA, Steve Bagby of Mason City, IL, and Joe (Alisa) Bagby of Sheridan, IN.

Her legacy continues through her grandchildren: Misty Nieman of Lincoln, Kasey (Troy) Singleton of Lincoln, Kristi (Robby) Umbach of Easton, Cory (Christine) Bagby of Easton, and Bailey Bagby of Westfield, IN and her great-grandchildren: Kori & Kale Singleton, Ethen, Kelbi, & Loxli Umbach, and Charlie, Razz, Deci, Charlee, and TJ Bagby.

Doris is also survived by many family members, including nieces and nephews, whom she loved dearly. She also had many dear friends and enjoyed weekly breakfasts with them at the Do Drop In.

Doris retired from the Illinois Department of Transportation in 1997. Doris was known for her hard work, quick wit and her ability to organize family get-togethers to keep family traditions alive. To her grandchildren, she was known as "Grandma Goochie." Doris took pride in caring for the places and people she loved. She and Howard took devotion in unearthing forgotten cemeteries. For decades, she continued to tend the cemetery "Leases Grove" with quiet devotion, making sure every stone looked as though someone still cared deeply...because she did.

Her own yard was her kingdom and she ruled it from the seat of her mower, zipping along with a purpose that could make a younger person tired just watching. She noticed everything; and she fixed it—usually before anyone else even knew it needed fixing. She was the epitome of a "humble helper," always extending a helping hand in any way she was able. These small, steady acts, done without applause, were her way of loving the world. They became the rhythm of her days and the gentle, yet impactful, imprint she leaves on the hearts of the people who love and knew her.

Doris met life on her terms—strong when it mattered, soft when it counted, and wryly funny when no one saw it coming. Her recent battle with cancer was just like her: short, fierce, and without fuss.

As we say goodbye, we find comfort in knowing that Goochie is now dancing with Howard in Heaven. And this time, when he goes to dip her, we trust he is holding on just a little tighter than he was last time.

A memorial service will be held for Doris on Monday, December 8, 2025 at 11:00am in the chapel of Hurley Funeral Home in Mason City, IL with her son, Steve, to officiate the service. The family will receive friends an hour prior to the service. Donations in Doris' memory can be made to Leases Grove Cemetery.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Mason City
603 East Chestnut
Mason City, IL 62664
(217) 482-5959
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

Memorial Service

DEC 8. 11:00 AM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Mason City
603 East Chestnut
Mason City, IL 62664
(217) 482-5959
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

Tribute Wall

SL

“Doris and I were book buddies. I sent her books that I was reading in my book group, and we would text comments about them. We established a great book friendship. When I attended the alumni banquet in the spring, Doris and I sat next to each other, and we continued our discussion about which books we liked best. Doris was so insightful about literature and such an inspiring person. I will remember and miss her with every word I read.

Sonja Lutz - December 07, 2025 at 06:30 PM

MC

“I worked with Doris for many years at DOT. On birthdays she would bake a marvelous Oatmeal cake. My Mom had a piece one day and from that day on she only wanted that cake on her birthday and any other time she could talk me into baking it for her. Thank you Doris for the many memories. I remember when you and Howard built your new modular home. I was amazed how quick it was built. I know Howard is glad you are home. Rest in peace. You'll be missed even by those that no longer got to see you.

Melinda Calvert - December 07, 2025 at 06:44 AM



“Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Doris Ellen Bagby.



December 04, 2025 at 08:49 PM

KW

“ Doris and I used to ride to work with Clark Liesman years ago. She was such a wonderful beautiful person! Always pleasant! Prayers to the family 🙏🙏🙏

Karen Wagner - December 03, 2025 at 10:55 AM

LO

“ Sending our condolences and sympathies to Steve and the rest of the family. She will sure be missed. RIP Doris.

Lynne Onken - December 02, 2025 at 05:38 PM

LO

“ Lynne Onken lit a candle in memory of Doris Ellen Bagby



Lynne Onken - December 02, 2025 at 05:35 PM

BS

“ Steve and family sorry to hear of your loss in my thoughts and prayers God Blessings, Beverly Stafford, Rest in Peace Doris



Beverly Stafford - December 02, 2025 at 10:26 AM

YF

“ *Your Probo Family purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Doris Ellen Bagby.*



Your Probo Family - December 02, 2025 at 09:26 AM

LH

“ *Larry And Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in memory of Doris Ellen Bagby*



Larry and Mary Hundt - December 02, 2025 at 08:37 AM



“ *I am sorry for your loss*



Glenna Mount - December 02, 2025 at 05:12 AM

TB

“ *Tine Bagby lit a candle in memory of Doris Ellen Bagby*



Tine Bagby - December 02, 2025 at 01:24 AM

MM

*So sorry to hear about your loss of Doris. Bagby. Doris was my supervisor in the permit office at IDOT. She was a kind and lovely person. I know she will be missed, but you know she's not suffering.
Mabel Martin*

Mabel Martin - December 06, 2025 at 05:18 PM

KP

“ She was a great and funny woman. I will miss her!



Kevin Patterson - December 01, 2025 at 06:08 PM

DV

“ Dave Vaughn lit a candle in memory of Doris Ellen Bagby



Dave Vaughn - December 01, 2025 at 05:49 PM

GS

“ I always looked forward to coming to Mason City a day before our Cousin's Reunions at Doris's, when Ellen and I would come over, and Ellen would help wipe down tables, and other chores, and I would start gathering all the limbs for our wonderful bonfires. Great Times were had by everyone who Ever came to these reunions!!

Glenn Shawgo - December 01, 2025 at 05:19 PM

KZ

“ *Kay Zimmerman lit a candle in memory of Doris Ellen Bagby*



Kay Zimmerman - December 01, 2025 at 04:49 PM

RL

“ *Robin Logue-Baughman lit a candle in memory of Doris Ellen Bagby*



Robin Logue-Baughman - December 01, 2025 at 04:48 PM

DE

“ *Dena lit a candle in memory of Doris Ellen Bagby*



Dena - December 01, 2025 at 03:53 PM

CB

In loving memory of Doris Bagby, she was a wonderful person.

Connie Brownfield - December 08, 2025 at 03:47 PM