



Caroline Cole Keen

April 24, 1925 - May 21, 2026

Caroline Cole Keen, 101, a beloved Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother, and dear friend, passed away peacefully surrounded by family in her home to go be with her Lord on Thursday, May 21st, 2026. Born on April 24, 1925 in Grundy, Virginia. Mamaw's life was a testament to love, laughter, dedication, and most important to her, her cherished family.

Mamaw was one of nine children to her parents, Josh and Caroline Cole. She spent her childhood in Whitewood, where she met the love of her life, Claude V. Keen "Papaw." They later married when he returned from World War II in 1946. Mamaw told the story of how she told Claude she would not marry him unless he came home safe from the war. After he returned, they were happily married until his passing in 2011. Together they started Claude V. Keen Trucking Co. in 1958, while she taught school for twenty years. In 1968, they bought a beautiful home on South Holston Lake where she and Claude continued to grow their family. Mamaw stayed active in the business, as her son Freddie has proudly kept it running for 68 years.

Mamaw loved her plants, riding around the lake neighborhood on her golfcart, in her favorite color, blue, and catching up with the neighbor's latest stories and of course she loved telling all her own! Most of all the unfaltering love that she had for her family, who she always made her main priority to guide, care for, and most of all... spoil! And goodness how she loved spoiling her family!

When asked by WCYB during broadcast of her 100th birthday party, “what she contributes to reaching the milestone of turning 100 years old!” Her reply was, “her love and faith in God and she just can’t leave her family who still needs her!” She always thought of her family first, who she loved with everything in her.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Claude Keen; son, Danny Ray Keen; daughter, Karen Lynn Keen; brothers, Hassel, Gallie, Kermit, Sherman, Leonard, and Graham Cole; and sisters, Trula Burress and Garnie Cooper.

Mamaw is survived by her loving family. Her son Freddie Keen and his wife Debbie Keen, and her daughter Kim Keen. She has four grandchildren, Ryan Keen and wife Crystal Keen (son of Freddie), Lindsey Felty and husband Matt Felty (daughter of Freddie), Trey Keen and wife Angelica Keen (son of Kim), and Joshlyn Vance and husband Ron Vance (daughter of Kim). There are four Great Grandchildren, Shaylyn Keen (daughter of Ryan and Crystal), Kinsley Dillow, Scarlett Vance, and Charleston Vance. (daughters of Joshlyn and Ron Vance).

The family would also like to recognize a special family friend, and care giver, Cindy Jones. Also her physician, Amy Almany, who always went above and beyond to make sure Mamaw had the best care possible, and was always there when the family needed.

Funeral services for Caroline Cole Keen will be conducted Monday, May 25, 2026 at 1pm at Hurst-Scott Funeral Chapel in Richlands, Virginia with Rev. Troy Lester, Rev. Clyde Wimmer, and Clyde Keen officiating. Interment will follow at Greenhills Memory Gardens at Claypool Hill, Virginia. Pallbearers will be: Terry Maxwell, Blake Silcox, Ron Vance, Pete Cole, Ryan Keen, Trey Keen, and Matt Felty. Friends may visit with the family from 12pm until 1pm on

Monday prior to the funeral.

Hurst-Scott Funeral Home in Richlands is in charge of arrangements, and those wishing to express sympathy online may do so at www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com

Cemetery Details

Greenhills Memory Gardens

11800 Gov G.C. Peery Hwy
Cedar Bluff, VA 24609

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 25. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Hurst-Scott Funeral Home
1401 2nd Street
Richlands, VA 24641
<http://www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com>

Funeral

MAY 25. 1:00 PM (ET)

Hurst-Scott Funeral Home
1401 2nd Street
Richlands, VA 24641
<http://www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Caroline Cole Keen.*



May 24 at 09:21 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Caroline Cole Keen.

May 24 at 09:21 AM



“ *My deepest condolences to all of you! She was a very classy and elegant lady, you are all so Blessed to of had her for so long Her legacy will live on in those whose lives she touched. Love and Prayers* 💕💕



Tammy Hackworth - May 23 at 09:44 PM



“ *Travis Richards and Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Caroline Cole Keen.*



Travis Richards and Family - May 23 at 09:35 PM

BN

“ Great aunt was always the talk of town was doing something good. I am Brice Nicholson Lois Cooper Nicholson youngest son .Iam praying for the Keen family.

Brice Nicholson - May 23 at 05:49 PM

SC

“ Dear Kim, Freddie, Debbie and all the kids: Ron and I have such fond memories of all the family. And extended family. Love and Prayers for you all. Sandra and Ron Cole. Durham, NC

Sandy. Cole - May 23 at 03:19 PM

WO

So sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with the family. May God Bless you. My husband, Darrell Owens, worked for Claude Keen several years.

Wilma Owens - May 25 at 07:54 PM

LP

“ Love, Mary, Brian, Jess and Grandma Pat purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Caroline Cole Keen.



Love, Mary, Brian, Jess and Grandma Pat - May 23 at 12:36 PM

CK

“ Freddie and Kim, sending deepest condolences to you, family and friends. She was a wonderful lady, loved by many. May God give you peace during this sad time. She was a special lady. Sending love to all of you.

Carnice & Peggy Keen - May 23 at 10:15 AM

LL

“ LOUIE LAWSON lit a candle in memory of
Caroline Keen



LOUIE LAWSON - May 23 at 08:42 AM

MD

“ As a child I knew when Aunt Nell came she would make Seafoam
Candy and curl my mom's hair and plait mine into pony tail laugh
and giggle all day. Love You Aunt Nell and the childhood memories

marie davis - May 23 at 08:13 AM

BK

“ My deepest condolences to family and friends, I grew up in the
Whitewood area and knew most of the Keen family well. May God
wrap His arms around you and comfort you as only He can. Prayers
now and in the days to come.

Bonnie Keen - May 22 at 04:58 PM

KL

“ We wish to send our deepest condolences to Freddie, Debbie, Ryan
and all of the family for your loss. Please know you will all be in our
prayers for comfort.
From Kathy and Dickey (Moby) Looney

Kathy Looney - May 22 at 01:04 PM

PM

“ I have lots of happy memories of Mrs Keen at the lake. God has gained a beautiful lady. Freddie and Kim, you were very fortunate to have her for over a hundred years. I'm sure your children are blessed to have her in their lives as well. Peace be with you all.

Penny Jones McCallum - May 22 at 11:54 AM

LH

“ Kim Freddie and all the amily
Im so sorry to hear about your Moms
passing..Nell was one of the sweetest ladies I
know. She was a dear friend to my Mom.She
will be missed by so many!!My Love an Prayers
go out to you all.



LisaHackworth Harris - May 22 at 11:19 AM