



## Mary Gladys Ross

November 6, 1926 - May 29, 2026

It is with deep sorrow and much love that we mourn the passing of our Mom, Mary Gladys Ross, on May 29, 2026 at Yreka. She was 99 1/2 years old. Mary Gladys Bowers, known as Gladys, was born in Akron, OH on November 6, 1926 to Grant C. & Mary F. Bowers. Gladys grew up in Akron. While in 6th grade she met her best friend Ruth Williams. The two were inseparable and would one day marry brothers, sealing their sisterhood. Gladys graduated from East High School in Akron on June 6, 1944. A date she would never forget for it was the Invasion of Normandy, D-Day. She was seventeen. When Gladys turned 18 she went to work for Goodyear Aircraft, Plant C in Akron. She was trained to be a "Rosie the Riveter" working on the B-29's fuselage installing dust seals on bomb bay doors. It was during this time she met and became engaged to Robert Cross an Air Force man stationed with the B-29's in the Pacific. Gladys has always been proud of her patriotism and her contributions in helping the war efforts. Gladys married Robert Ross on March 17, 1945 and soon started a family. Her family has always been her crowning achievement to which she was most proud. Pouring her heart and soul into being a wife and mother of 3, she became a dedicated homemaker. In 1966 the family moved to Etna, where Gladys was united with her best friend and now sister-in-law whom resided there. Etna remained her "Home" until her passing and where she had made many friends throughout the years. Gladys was not only an amazing homemaker, she was also an amazing cook. She loved to bake most of all. Those who knew her will attest to the wide

array of delectable desserts she made. Holidays and special occasions were made Extra Special and memorable by cherished recipes made only for those times and we looked forward to them each year.

Gladys loved to sew. She had sewn countless outfits for her daughters and grand daughters + doll clothes, formals, prom dresses, wedding dresses, maternity clothes, baby clothes also sewing for herself and a couple dress shirts for her husband who proudly wore them on several occasions. she was excited to be able to take an advanced designer sewing class with the late Dot Luce, a dress designer and boutique Owner. Gladys was an expert seamstress in her own right, but always liked learning new things.

Over the years Gladys held jobs at Goodyear Aircraft and J.C. Penney's of Akron, and also the Homestead in Etna and she later enjoyed many years at Scott Valley Drug Store from which she retired. Gladys devoted many hours as an Assistant Sewing Leader for 4-H, was a council member for Job's Daughters for many years. A member of Eastern Star, she was Deaconess for the Berean Church in Etna, and enjoyed spending time with her Sewing Circles and Bible Study Groups.

Gladys was known for her sense of humor, brightening every conversation and leaving smiles along the way. No matter how poorly she felt, she always brought a chuckle and a smile to those around her. Her smile and laugh shall forever be etched in our hearts. Gladys had a heart of gold where her family was held near and dear. The special memories of our mom, our grandmother, and great grandmother and all she has meant to our family will be forever cherished in our hearts..our tears of today will someday turn into smiles as we fondly remember her memory. A treasure who is loved beyond words and will be missed beyond measure.

Gladys was preceded in death by her loving husband of 61yrs. Robert "Bob" Ross of Etna; parents Grant & Mary Bowers of Akron,OH; a brother Harold Bowers of New York, brother Jack Bowers of Mogadore, OH and a brother John Bowers of Akron; her best friend and lifelong "sister" Ruth Ross of Vancouver, WA. Grandson Michael Thomson Jr. of Hornbrook.

Gladys is survived by daughter Karen Brown of Etna, son Robert "Bobby" Ross of Bend, OR, daughter Lori Thomson of Hornbrook. 7 grandchildren Kent Brown of Alaska, Bryan Brown of Texas, Angela McKnight of Montague, Christian Thomson of Hornbrook, David Thomson of Yreka, Brianna Chong of Hollister, Tiffany Ross of Bend, OR; 13 Great Grandchildren: Haylee Fernandes of Montague, Kayla Brown of Wyoming, Cody Brown of Montague, Jaiden McKnight of Medford. Logan McKnight of Montague, Ember Thomson & Saphira Thomson Thrash of Florala, AL., Leam Thomson & McKenna Thomson of Yreka, Mya Brown, Aliya Brown & Bryan Brown Jr. of Texas, Michael Simmons of Redding; 3 Great Great Grandchildren: Ava Lynn Fernandes of Montague, Freya and Aaliyah Cruz of Florala, AL. In addition Gladys leaves several Nephews & Nieces with whom she has stayed in touch through the years.

A very special thank-you to the staff at Madrone Hospice for their compassion and kindness you have always shown our family!

In Lieu of flowers any contribution to Madrone Hospice 255 Collier Circle Yreka, CA 96097 would be welcomed.

A Memorial Service will be held on June 13, 2026 11:00 a.m. at The Scott Valley Berean Church, 134 Church St. Etna, CA , with a graveside Ceremony to follow at Etna Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## Etna Cemetery

Sawyers Bar Road  
Etna, CA 96027

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUN 13. 11:00 AM (PT)

Scott Valley Berean Church  
134 Church Street  
Etna, CA 96027

# Tribute Wall

TE

“ I have very fond memories of Aunt Gladys from numerous cross-country visits. She was such a special lady for her kindness and wisdom, as well as her enduring love for her husband and family, including her brothers, neices, nephews, in-laws, and SO many friends.

She was so proud to have served as a "Rosie the Riveter" during WWII. I still remember her describing what it was like to work back then in that capacity. She served her country well, and she enjoyed it! She was also a self-proclaimed "bobbysoxer" who was crazy about Frank Sinatra! (He was better than Elvis, of course!) Wish I could have met her then. How cool would that have been??

But mostly I remember her sense of humor. It was second to none. I'll never forget, she called everyone "Kid" with a twinkle in her eye and smile on her face.

Later in life, when I was a smart-alec adult, Aunt Gladys was amused when I called her (as a play on "Glad-ys") "Aunt Happy-Butt." Loved her sense of humor!

And one time, a bunch of us were coming back from dinner (here in Ohio), and we were talking about cooking and recipes, as she was an expert cook (NO ONE could match her nut rolls). Except, from what she said herself, she got "an F in casserole." We all burst out in laughter! (Say that out loud, you'll see how it actually landed 😂.) And she laughed louder than any of us.

Goodbye Aunt Gladys. Thanks for being you. We all loved you.

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**Terie** - June 13 at 06:15 PM

LT

*Hi Terie..Thank-You for sharing..Boy those were such good summers..My Mom Loved all the preparation right down to planning menus and activities..she would be so excited when you'd drive up she'd literally run out to the car...Dad would always film it haha..shortly before Dad got bad my husband Mike and I went over while Mom was at work and watched the home movies your Dad had set to tape with him and we laughed...Hope you are well and happy...Love Lori*

**Lori Thomson** - June 14 at 05:41 PM

RR

*“ Best mother ever very strict great person to listen best cook taught me a lot and to always be on time*

**Robert Mark ross** - June 13 at 09:15 AM

AB

*“ My condolences to family & friends alike. Gladys was such a special soul who touched every life she met with kindness, humor & grace. I have only good memories of my Aunt Gladys. She was the one in the family you would call on for advice or a family history lesson. She was always so happy & easy going & had the most infectious laugh. She will be missed by everyone who knew her.*

**Anita Bowers** - June 07 at 11:50 PM

LT

*Hi Anita Thank-You for your kind words...Mom would have Loved reading all your comments..she thought the world of you neices and nephews and Loved your visits getting to watch you grow up..I still remember Dad calling you "Nita Mosquita" he Loved teasing you...Good Times !! Love Lori*

**Lori Thomson** - June 14 at 05:48 PM

SR

“ SSG Michael Bowers, USA, Retired sent a virtual gift in memory of Mary Gladys Ross



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**SSG Michael Bowers, USA, Retired** - June 05 at 11:38 AM

MB

*This was such a sweet lady by to me all ways. May her family a find peace knowing she is safe. Farewell sweet lady meet you again .R.I.P. Mae Nell Buttram JC Pennys*

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**Mae Nell Buttran** - June 06 at 02:26 AM

SR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**SSG Michael Bowers, USA, Retired** - June 05 at 11:35 AM

LT

*Hi Michael...Was so glad to hear from you..Thank-You so much for your kind words and for sharing the pictures also..Mom always had a soft spot for you cause you used to call her "Aunt Gwadich" So glad our families got to spend so many summers together growing up...Good Times ! Can you just imagine the reunion they are all having in Heaven now..Your kindness and outpouring of Love is a Great Comfort to our family Thank-you for sharing..Lori & Mike.*

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**Lori Thomson** - June 07 at 04:07 PM

EE

“ I’m so sorry to hear of Gladys’ passing. She was such a sweet and kind lady. We shared so many wonderful times working with the Job’s Daughters. Her sense of humor and laughter combined with Don Elam’s were a joy. I will forever hold her close in my heart ❤️

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ELAINE ELDRIDGE - June 04 at 04:46 PM

SR

“ Aunt Gladys was such a precious, beautiful person. I'll never forget how caring she was and gentle when talking with us, wanting to share memories and give advice about life. She came to Ohio to visit my Dad and my Uncle, her brothers Jack and John, when she could, and my wife and I would plan a trip home from the Army to see her too. I remember her sitting at the kitchen table with my wife and I, after my Mom passed, to see how we were doing and talk of memories and of the Lord. She gave us advice like only a mother could; nothing further about that, on the grounds that it might incriminate me...

I remember fondly the trips to get us some Strickland's Custards in Akron, that was one of her favorite things that she missed from Ohio, and mine too. Dad said she wanted to go once a day while she was here...

Gladys remained a major player in my Dad's life, his older sister, even from across the USA. They talked on the phone every other Saturday night without fail and she often sent cards and gifts to her brothers and family.

Thank you Aunt Gladys for the love and wonderful memories and the wisdom you shared with us.

Enjoy eternity with out Lord, I'll see you up there!!



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SSG Michael Bowers, USA, Retired - June 04 at 03:39 PM

SR

*With OUR Lord! 🙏*

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**SSG Michael Bowers, USA, Retired** - June 04 at 03:55 PM

KP

“ *On my few encounters with her she was joyful love in action. Yod welcomed home this faithful servant. Prayers for g Her family.*

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**Kathy Preszler** - June 04 at 02:58 PM