



## Alice St. John Ernst Gills

February 28, 1924 - January 1, 2021

Alice St. John Ernst Gills left us to meet with family, friends, and her higher power on January 1, 2021. Alice was born February 28, 1924 in Fernandina Beach, Florida, the last surviving child of Vincent and Mildred St. John.

Alice attempted to enlist during World War II, but they would not accept her due to her weight being below the required minimum. Unable to serve in the military, she went to work with her father at his Eastern Auto Parts store in Starke, FL where she changed batteries and other maintenance work but as soon as the war was over, she promptly forgot how to accomplish these tasks.

Alice had a sense of adventure and acted as the co-pilot for her father, Vincent when they flew up to visit relatives in Connecticut in the mid 50's. She drove to visit family in Connecticut, Virginia, and Maine; sometimes by herself. She traveled to Costa Rica, Yellowstone National Park, Idaho, Oregon, and Wyoming when in her 70's as well as Key West and Ohio in her late 80's. She was very outgoing, loved to travel and never met a stranger.

Alice worked in retail until she married Maurice H. Ernst and settled in St. Augustine. Upon his death she then learned to drive a three on the tree 1963 Valiant station wagon at the age of 45 and drove this car until the 1970's. She was also a talented seamstress, made both clothing for herself, Suzanna, and doll clothing. She went back to work in the retail field and worked until she

was in her late 70's.

She was remarried in 1968 to Perry W. Gills and they were both longtime friends of Bill W., with Alice being a friend for over 63 years.

Alice was predeceased by her brothers, Edwin, Richard and Steven St. John; sisters, Eleanor St. John Palmes and Ruth St. John Christano Lamb; her husbands, Maurice H. Ernst and Perry W. Gills; and granddaughter Erica Ernst Bandy.

She is survived by her son, Marc A. Ernst (Susan), daughter, Suzanna E. Schuyler Vetter, granddaughter Erin Ernst, grand-son in law Tony Bandy, niece Sharon St. John Fussel (Eleanor), Vincent, William Hugh and Joy St. John Johnson (Richard), Caleb St. John (Steven), Chris, Chase, and Garth Palmes (Eleanor), Peter Christano (Ruth) and numerous great-great grandnieces and nephews.

A Memorial Service in celebration of Alice's life will be held on Saturday, January 23, 2021 at 3:00 PM at St Johns Family Funeral Home with Rev. Glen McCutcheon officiating. In keeping with the CDC Coronavirus guidelines every attendee must wear a mask and the number of attendees may be restricted. We ask that if you are at high risk, feeling ill, or traveling from an area with a high level of infection, please do not attend the service. Those unable to attend can view the service live streamed by clicking on the following link <https://iframe.dacast.com/b/156599/c/iframe.dacast.com/b/156599/c/549019> .

St. John's Family Funeral Home is in Charge of arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN **23**. 3:00 AM - 4:00 PM (ET)

ST JOHNS FAMILY FUNERAL HOME  
385 State Rd 207  
St. Augustine, FL 32084

# Tribute Wall



“ *St. Johns Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Alice St. John Ernst Gills*



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**St. Johns Family Funeral Home** - January 19, 2021 at 04:36 PM

HR

*What an incredible woman. She helped so many in so many ways. My condolences to her family.*

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**Hazel Robinson** - January 23, 2021 at 03:35 PM

RC

*I am so grateful for Alice who inspired me greatly! ✨ ✨ ✨*

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**Rev. Amy Camp** - January 23, 2021 at 04:08 PM

WB

*Inspirational, caring and beautiful lady. I'm blessed to have had moments with her.*

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**whitney beann** - January 23, 2021 at 04:51 PM

HB

*One human being made such a positive difference in the lives of many. Peter and are so grateful we got a chance to know Miss Alice ❤️*

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**Helen Briggs** - January 23, 2021 at 06:31 PM

JN

*Amazing woman who inspired me and countless others. May you Rest In Peace! Thank you for all your service work Alice 🙏❤️*

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**Julie Nelson** - January 24, 2021 at 12:39 AM

MW

*Miss Alice I've known you from the time I was 9 years old at Flagler Church. I remember when Mr. Ernst passed. I babysat your kids. My Mom was friends with you. Then, in my time of greatest need, you were there. You worked God's Will throughout your life. You lived a life that paved the way for me to have a better life. Thank you for showing me how it works with the great example of how you lived your life. I am grateful.*

Mary Lee Webb-Drake - January 24, 2021 at 09:35 AM

KR

*Awesome women! She lead by attraction; she walked the walk with faith and love. Alice shared her words of wisdom for which I am very grateful! Rest In Peace now you have joined all your love ones💕💕*

Kathleen Ryan - March 20, 2021 at 12:13 AM

LK

*“ Miss Alice was my dear friend. She always had a kind and or wise word. She repeatedly told me, “Nothing, absolutely nothing, happens in God's world by mistake.” To this day, she has been right. I already miss her.*



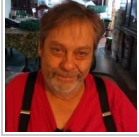
*Love and prayers for her family.*

LeeAnn Kendall - January 27, 2021 at 01:24 PM

DM

*“ Our Deepest Sympathy to your family in the loss of your Loved One. Alice was Blessed with two Loving children who looked over her. She will be missed by many people. Our Prayers are with you, Martinez & Rathore Family*

Dorothy Martinez - January 25, 2021 at 12:10 PM



“ Alice was such a sweet "Southern Bell" We are a loss for her passing.

Barth Leight - January 23, 2021 at 11:57 PM



“ Deborah Hehn lit a candle in memory of Alice St. John Ernst Gills



Deborah Hehn - January 23, 2021 at 01:19 PM



“ Our deepest condolences to Marc, Susan, Erin and the entire family.

melissa fisher - January 23, 2021 at 07:17 AM



“ 21 files added to the album LifeTributes



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - January 19, 2021 at 04:37 PM



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

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**St. Johns Family Funeral Home** - January 19, 2021 at 03:19 PM

NP

*I met Alice in the fall of 1957 when we both worked in the office of St. Augustine Soft Water Laundry on San Marco Av. In 1990 we bought the house at 76 Lighthouse Avenue and I discovered she was a neighbor. May God comfort her family.*

*Nell Porter*

*76 Lighthouse Av.*

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**Nell Porter** - January 23, 2021 at 12:23 PM