



Joyce "Laverne" Etheredge

February 16, 1936 - October 13, 2025

Joyce "Laverne" Etheredge, 89, passed away in Dade City, Florida on October 13, 2025. She was born in Ocilla, Georgia on February 16, 1936 to James and Mary Oliver. Laverne was a devoted member of the First Baptist Church of Bushnell where she sang in the choir for over 50 years. She grew up as a sharecropper's daughter in South Georgia, where she worked hard alongside her family where she farmed and harvested tobacco and cotton. From an early age, she displayed a strong work ethic and an even stronger spirit of love and faith. A talented athlete, Laverne was a state champion basketball player and proudly played alongside her sisters as part of "The Oliver Girls". She was also an outstanding bowler—and at one time had the highest scores in the state of Florida for women bowlers. She was a member of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, and started a girls softball league called "Miss Softball America." in Sumter County. Laverne was a master gardener for 30 years, a great cook, and a wonderful mom to all. She is survived by her sons: Stephen Etheredge of Lake Panasoffkee, Florida, Daniel Etheredge of Bushnell, Florida; daughters: Darby Etheredge of Bushnell, Florida, and Melinda Etheredge Berryhill of Bushnell, Florida; grandchildren Nichole, Alexis (Darren), Mark, Analin, Matt; great-grandchildren: Kaison, Brayden, Stella, Scarlett, Anya, and twins; sisters Martiel Davis, Barbara Gordon, and Alicia Oliver; brother Stanley Oliver (Glenda). Laverne was preceded in death by her husband James Newton Etheredge, her daughter Julie Etheredge, and her brothers Marion Oliver and Aubrey Oliver. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be

made to St. Jude Children's Hospital in her memory. A visitation will be held at First Baptist Church of Bushnell on Thursday, November 13, 2025 from 10:00am-11:00am with the service to follow at 11:00am. Interment will follow to Florida National Cemetery. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.purcellfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to Purcell Funeral Home, Bushnell, Florida.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 13. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Bushnell
125 W Anderson Ave
Bushnell, FL 33513-5921
(352) 793-4612

Service

NOV 13. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Bushnell
125 W Anderson Ave
Bushnell, FL 33513-5921
(352) 793-4612

Tribute Wall



“ *Beyers Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Joyce "Laverne" Etheredge*



Beyers Funeral Home - November 11, 2025 at 10:25 AM

DO

“ *Laverne was one of the most gentle sweetest soft spoken mentor's to me in the Master Gardener program. Her kindness radiated all around her. Her flowers were as beautiful as she was and we were blessed to have learned from her and blessed by her friendship. Much healing to the family in this time of need. Donna Lester MG*

Donna - November 12, 2025 at 07:24 PM

ED

“ *Your Mom was an incredible lady, strong, resilient, talented, wise and full of love. I'm sorry for the hole her loss will place in your hearts and lives. I pray that the love and strength she instilled in you will help to bind you even closer as a family to support one another through the difficult times.*



Ellen Didion - October 19, 2025 at 08:42 AM

ME

Thank you Ellen

Melinda Etheredge - October 25, 2025 at 01:04 PM