



Mary Jean Welch

February 5, 2025

Mary Jean Welch, daughter of the late Bruce and Jean Floyd, passed away on February 5, 2025. A native Floridian, she graduated from Leesburg High School; attended Florida State College for Women (now FSU) where she was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority; graduated from Shorter College (now University), Rome, Georgia, and received her master's degree from Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina. She taught school in Leesburg for many years; was chairman of the science department; was selected "Teacher of the Year." Mary Jean loved the Appalachian Mountains and upon her retirement from teaching, spent many of her retirement years living in the Smoky Mountains of Western North Carolina. She also loved travel and traveled extensively, visiting all 50 states and 6 continents. Mary Jean adored flying and became a licensed, instrument-rated pilot, attaining a commercial license. She even owned a two-seater Cessna 152 airplane for many years. Mary Jean was very active in her church and was a member and Elder of the Etowah Presbyterian Church, Etowah, North Carolina. Last, but not least, she loved her family dearly.

In addition to her parents, Mary Jean was also preceded in death by her husband, Billy D. Welch, a brother, a sister, and an infant daughter. She is survived by two sons, Theodore A. Erck (Carole) and George W. Erck (Paula), two daughters, Susannah Erck Howard and Rebecca Erck Whitney; seven grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandson.

Burial will be in the Lone Oak Cemetery, Leesburg, Florida. In lieu of flowers, please donate in her memory to one of Mary Jean's favorite charities: Hendersonville Rescue Mission, Hendersonville, North Carolina; St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, any local humane society, or the charity of one's choice.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home of Leesburg, Florida.

Cemetery Details

Lone Oak Cemetery

306 Thomas Avenue
Leesburg, FL 34748