



## Maryellen Babb

October 25, 1934 - July 3, 2021

Maryellen Babb of Altoona, FL, age 86, passed away July 3, 2021 at Lakeview Terrace in Umatilla. Born in 1934 in Tupelo, MS, she was the daughter of Earl and Carra Bell Cockrell and survived the 1936 tornado there as a young girl. A graduate of Steven's college in Columbia, MO, she built a career in bettering her community. Her special gift was fund raising for the benefit of others.

She moved to the Umatilla area in 1970 and became an avid participant in the community, joining the Garden Club, Bridge Club, Humane Society, Women's Club, and the Presbyterian Church, in addition to volunteering at the Umatilla Chamber of Commerce and Lakeview Terrace. Her lifelong passion was supporting the Umatilla Library, a place that was very special to her. Working there since 1972, she oversaw many expansions and programs, and was honored with a telegram from President Reagan in 1983 for her tradition of service to others. She loved math and anything to do with numbers, and especially loved animals.

Along with her husband Howard Babb, she owned the Babb Christmas Tree Farm in Altoona which won awards such as the 1987 Christmas Tree Association Grand Championship for the quality of their trees. They were honored to provide the Florida State Christmas tree to the governor in 1991.

Maryellen is survived by her son, Robert Johnson (Lynne) of Port Hadlock, WA and her grandchildren, Benjamin and Logan Johnson. She is predeceased by her son, Jeffrey Johnson (Jan) of Colorado Springs, CO, and her husband, Howard Babb of Umatilla. She is also survived by Howard's son, Skipper Babb (Ginger) and their children, as well as predeceased by her first husband, Bob Johnson, Sr. originally from Tupelo, MS.

Funeral services will be held on Thurs, Aug. 12, 2021 at 11:00 am in the Beyers Funeral Home Chapel in Umatilla, FL. Memorial donations may be made in her name to the Humane Society or the Umatilla Public Library.







