



Norma Ann Leadford

JAN 3, 1937 - NOV 3, 2021



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Norma Ann Leadford, 84, of Olive Branch, Mississippi, passed away on November 3, 2021.

Norma was born on January 3, 1937, to Orvil Lucian Cotten and Rebecca Ann (Alsop) Cotten in Memphis Tennessee. She had an older brother, O.L. Cotten Jr. and sister, Helen Hindman. She lived in the same house until she married. She went to kindergarten at Memphis State Training School and attended Messick High School. She enjoyed good times with neighbor friends and those she went to church with, such as going to football games, skating rinks and fair grounds.

When she was in the 12th grade, she met Walter Thurman (W.T.) Leadford at Central Avenue Baptist Church. Their first date was going to a Valentine banquet at their church in 1955. They were engaged May 14, 1955, and married August 19, 1955. They went on to have three children, Linda Hardin (Farragut, TN), Cathy Burns (Olive Branch, MS) and Becky Wilkins (Collierville, TN). Norma was a full-time mom and homemaker, and did volunteer work for the American Red Cross at V.A. Hospital.

In 1982, Norma and Walter moved to the family farm they had purchased in 1978 in Saulsbury, Tennessee. While there, Norma started writing the Saulsbury News for the Bolivar Bulletin Times. Norma knew and befriended everyone in the community and interviewed many Saulsbury citizens to feature them in her articles. She also loved the home-makers club while in Saulsbury.

In 2008, Norma and Walter sold the family farm and moved to Olive Branch, Mississippi. They attended LaBelle Haven Baptist Church together and Norma volunteered with numerous organizations and enjoyed every opportunity they had to spend time with their friends, daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Norma was predeceased by her parents and brother. She is survived by her husband, her sister, three daughters, eight grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.



Obituary

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Services will be held on Monday, November 8, 2021 at Memorial Park Funeral Home, 5668 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN. Visitation from 12:30 - 2:00 PM. Funeral at 2:00 PM



Tribute Wall

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LG

Laurie McIntosh Gambrell posted:

I have known Norma Leadford since 1960 when at four years of age my family moved to Parkway Village in Memphis. The Leadfords lived just a few houses down from us. Ms. Norma was a big part of my life growing up and I cherish all the sweet memories of her. As a child I spent a lot of time at her house playing with her daughters. She was always warm and welcoming and truly was a special person. I pray for peace and comfort for Mr. WT and the entire family. Please know that Ms. Norma was an absolute blessing in my life.

November 12 at 11:09 AM

MM

Martha McIntosh November 13 at 10:14 AM

My daughter, Laurie, told me about Norma today. She was a special friend and I have wonderful memories of the good times we spent together with our children. I pray for W.T. and the family and ask the Lord to comfort them bring them peace in the days ahead. Martha McIntosh

JM

Jeanne Miller posted:

Mrs. Norma was a very special lady. She used to sit behind us at New Prospect. She was one of the kindest ladies I had ever met. She will be missed

November 8 at 3:32 PM

LW

Linda Whatt posted:

Norma was one of kind, a very special friend and prayer warrior. Praying for W T, the girls, all of her family, and her very special niece, Judy Craig.

November 8 at 7:57 AM

LW

Linda Wyatt November 8 at 8:09 AM

Sorry about spelling of my name. Should be Linda Wyatt



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LF

Lewis L. Faulkner posted:

Norma was in my 1955 Messick High School class. Since then, we only saw each other at a few reunions. Our 65th reunion was delayed to the 30 of October 2021 because of COVID. It became our 66th. Norma and I passed a lot of emails over the past few years. In my last one a couple of weeks ago I told her that I was looking forward to seeing her in Memphis 10/30/2021. I never received acknowledgement back from her. Sadly, now I know why. I pray that Walter and all of Norma's family is comforted by our Lord Jesus. Blessings to you all. Lewis and Sherry Faulkner Plano, Texas

November 7 at 4:33 PM

SE

Susan Beal Edmonson lit a candle in honor of Norma.

Oh my...the memories of this sweet lady, WT, Linda, Cathy and Becky. How many weekends did we all spend together! My prayers are with you all and I hope God comforts you as you grieve.



November 7 at 3:49 PM

SS

Shirley South lit a candle in honor of Norma.



November 5 at 3:46 PM

SS

Shirley South posted:

Norma was a special Lady. We went to Church together at Grand junction went to Bible studies Pray time alot of dinner spent a lot of time together with W T and other She was a blessing to us and a very special friend. We loved her and WT

November 5 at 3:45 PM

LM

Larry Mills posted:

What a special lady! Not sure if I ever saw her without WT. I grew up on Knightway and they were 2 houses over. She would come over for coffee many mornings and always had a story. Later I read all her articles in the Bolivar Bulletin as she detailed all the happenings in Saulsbury TN. And I have more messages in FB Messenger since 2011 than all others combined. Always so pleasant; I will miss running into her. Praying for the family as you await seeing her again! Larry Mills

November 5 at 5:21 AM



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BM

Bonnie McClure posted:

Norma was a very special cousin. She and WT welcomed us home to Tennessee after Bill and I retired from the Navy. For all the years we lived near them in Hardeman Co., we saw each other very frequently. After Bill died in 2000, they were especially helpful to me. Norma was like an older sister for me and I will miss her very much. My prayers are with WT and their daughters. Bonnie McClure

November 5 at 5:03 AM



Anonymous sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Leadford family.



November 5 at 4:19 AM

RA

Rhilda Ammer posted:

Met Norma at Ellison Baptist Church in the seventies. She and I became best friends and she was my spiritual buddy. My family spent many good times on their farm after they moved from Memphis. I will miss our conversations, but look forward to seeing her again in Heaven. 🙏❤️

November 5 at 3:23 AM



Anonymous sent an Arrive in Style to the Leadford family.



November 4 at 7:20 PM

LP

Lee Parrish posted:

Mrs Norma was a special lady. We served together at New Prospect Baptist Church and she and Mr. Walter are neighbors. Once my wife played the piano at church and got nervous and just couldn't finish. Mrs Norma came to our house the next day and had my wife play her song for her and played it perfectly. She was such an encouragement to my family. We love her dearly. Our prayers are with Mr Walter and the family. Lee Parrish

November 4 at 5:28 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Norma by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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