



Rita Wheeler

August 2, 2018

The world became a little brighter on August 2, 2018 as Rita McDuffie Wheeler passed away peacefully surrounded by her family. She was 71 years old. This may sound unusual. Most people would say the world became a little darker, but that is simply not the case. The world became a little brighter because she is now in Heaven shining down on us. She is healed and dancing with the angels. Her light shined bright until the very end. She had an infectious smile that would light up a room. Her heart was big and beautiful. She never met a stranger. Family was important to her and you didn't have to be blood to be family. She loved God, dancing, gardening, watching birds, cooking for her family and anything that involved spending time with those she loved. If you didn't know her or if you didn't take the time to know her you truly missed out. All she ever wanted was the gift of your time. Nothing more. The world is brighter because of the lives she touched and will continue to touch through the legacy of the love she left behind. She didn't just talk the talk...she walked the walk. She loved and she loved big. She planted seeds of love throughout her life and in the end was able to see and feel how that love grew. Not many people get the opportunity to say their good byes and tell the people they care about they love them. She did. What a blessing in itself. She was faithful to God till the very end. She wanted to make sure everyone got their lives in order so she could see them again one day. Her peace filled us with peace. What a precious gift she left her children. She will be dearly missed.

Rita was born in Foley, Alabama, on September 7, 1946. She is predeceased by her grandparents; Mattie Sikes & James Irwin Doggett and Nettie Parker & Rev. John Allen McDuffie Esquire; her parents Verna Mae & Bervin Boykin McDuffie; her brothers Charles James McDuffie and Daniel Boykin McDuffie; and her sister Barbara Jean Franklin. She is survived by her husband John Elroy Wheeler, her four children, daughters; Lucinda Lee Sandell and Michelle Renee Sandell (fiancé Tom Childress) and her sons; Shannon Scott Sandell Sr. and Christopher Brian Sandell (Lisa); her four stepchildren Sharon Lovin, Annette Lovin (Ernest), Teresa Gaddis (Eddie) and Sheila Jordan (Chuck). Her son-in-law; Shayne Moody and daughter-in-law Barbara Sandell. Grandchildren; Ashley Strickland (Travis), Michael Moody (Jamie), Shayna Weeks (Charly), Scott Sandell (Hunter), Brandon Sandell, Destiny Kyle, Wren Pompeo, Rushie Collins, Hunter Sandell (Erin), Kristian Thomason ("prospect" Clayton Bornholt), Devan Martin ("prospect" Kelsey Russell), Adam & Erik Reeves, Lucas & Logan Lovin, Misty, Joe, Timmy & Kandi Lovin, Michael Wheeler, Scotty & Nikie Cutshaw, Trey Jordan, Wesley & Justin King and 40 great grandchildren. She is also survived by her brothers; John Allen McDuffie III (Diane), Kenneth Burvin McDuffie (Ann) and Harry Ned McDuffie (Marty), and sisters; Shirley Ann Childress and Pamela Renee Bozeman (Royce).

Family and friends are invited to attend a Celebration of Life ceremony on Saturday, August 18th at Bornholt Farm in Elberta AL. Please arrive by 6:00PM. The ceremony will begin at 6:30PM.

The family asks in lieu of flowers, donations be made to St. Jude Children's

Research Hospital at www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude or donate by phone: (800) 805-5856.

Arrangements are entrusted to Cason Funeral Service in Foley Alabama