



Helen B Lawton

November 1, 1930 - July 14, 2018

After a lengthy struggle with physical health issues, Helen Brinkley Lawton went peacefully to be with the Lord on Saturday evening, July 14, 2018 at Ocala Regional Medical Center. She was surrounded and supported by her close family members.

Most all who knew her, including her family, knew that her first love was music. She was an accomplished musician and learned to play the piano as a young girl, sang in church choirs, and majored in music education at Western Kentucky University. She especially loved to play her beloved Yamaha C3 grand), and called it her therapy after her husband of 53 years, Gene, died in 2004. She taught cello for many in the community, sang in the First Presbyterian and First Christian church choirs, played in the original Ocala Festival Orchestra, Ocala Symphony, Aeolian Players, and in many other chamber music groups, as well as the pit orchestra for many Ocala Civic Theatre and First Baptist Church productions.

She taught music in Kentucky and West Virginia before moving to Ocala with her husband and son in 1959. In Marion County, she taught at South Ocala

Elementary and then did social work, taught high school, and organized a chorus at the McPherson School for Girls. She also taught elementary music for several years and was used in early integration efforts in the 1960s by traveling to outlying minority schools to teach music. She also taught reading and compensatory education at Forest High School for 15 years.

She was an accomplished seamstress and, before computerization, ran her own monogramming business for many years. She outfitted her husband and sons with countless shirts, pants, pajamas, suits (even leisure suits), sport coats, and ties, and machine-embroidered and monogrammed untold thousands of towels, sheets, athletic jackets, and other articles of clothing.

She was born in Kannapolis, North Carolina in November 1930 as the sixth of seven children. She is survived by her three sons, Tom (Ann) of Anthony, Richard (Heather) of Gainesville, and Steve (Kathy) of Belleview, two grandsons, four great-grandchildren, and one sister, Janice McCombs of Waynesboro, Virginia.

The family will receive friends at Roberts of Ocala Downtown Chapel on Thursday, July 19, 2018 from 5-7 pm. The family will gather on Friday at Florida National Cemetery at 10am in Bushnell for a brief graveside service. Flowers accepted, or donations may be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Ocala Music Fund.

Tribute Wall

JM

“ Tom and the Lawton family. Please know that you are in our prayers at the time. I am a Monday volunteer at the hospital with Tom who is a very fine fellow volunteer and individual.

Jane Muckenfuss - July 22, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ I was deeply saddened by the passing of Helen. She was truly a gifted and loving lady who will be greatly missed by our church. I first knew Helen when she taught at Forest High School when my husband was Principal. My husband passed away a little over a month ago but we always enjoyed talking with her each Sunday after church as we were walking thru the parking lot. She was such a sweet lady and I will personally miss her. She was special. RIP Helen...you touched many lives.

Janice Kelly - July 20, 2018 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ An INDOOR GARDEN BASKET was sent on July 18, 2018 Our deepest sympathies and prayers to you, Richard, and your family.

Thinking of you during this time,
Your DJJ family.

Expression of Sympathy - July 18, 2018 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ Our prayers are with you all. Our Lord will provide the peace that we cannot.

Leonard & Anita Givens - July 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *SO sorry for your loss Richard. You and the family are in my thoughts and prayers. If we can do anything let me know. At last she is in peace.*

Barbara Holton - July 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ *A MOUNTAIN MEADOW PEDESTAL ARRANGEMENT was ordered on July 17, 2018*

Expression of Sympathy - July 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM