

JANET CARTER HILL



Janet Rose Carter ‘MawMaw’ Hill, 91, went home to be with the Lord February 16, 2024, after a life of faith and gratitude for her many blessings. She lived energetic and hopeful, funny and songful, sugary-sweet and warm, peaceful and proud. She was the lifeblood of the family. She is, forever, our pocket full of starlight.

Janet was born to George Christy Carter, Sr. and Jennie Ruth Stanfield Carter November 30, 1932 in Jacksonville. She was one of ten siblings George Christy Carter, Jr., Truman Leon Carter, Eileen Carter, Ruth Dolores Carter Phillips, Beverly E. Carter, Byron Carter, Walton L. Carter, Patricia W. Nave, Robert Carter and Merle Aspinwall, and maintained a distinct and enjoyable connection with each of them throughout her life. She was very close to her brothers Walton and Christy, who would always remember to bring her home something sweet. Janet, Merle and Pat had an unbreakable bond, their closeness evident through daily phone calls, heckling, and heart-to-heart conversations.

In her younger years, Janet was known as something of a smartie: quick-witted and sharp-tongued. She had a hankering for pranks and troublemaking, too! From shooting spitballs on the bus to joining several school fights. In 1951, Janet graduated from Andrew Jackson High School and married Eddie Walton Farmer, Jr. They lived in Highlands until 1955, then moved to Dinsmore. Together they had Charles (1953), Bruce (1955), Sandra (1956), Keith (1957), Nancy (1961), and Diane (1964).

In 1967, her marriage ended. To provide for her family, Janet began working as a secretary in the City of Jacksonville. It was at her first job that she met poet Dawne Yancey, her dearest friend for more than 50 years. Amidst working fulltime for the city and various night jobs as an events usherette, Janet competed for and earned the position of Administrative Secretary to the Director of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. She served the City of Jacksonville for over 32 years, thrilled by fiery local politics, fast-paced courtrooms, and civil service. She became a skilled typist, writer, and analyst who devised her own system of shorthand, drafted the most thoughtful letters, and went straight to the heart of matters. Around that time, the first group of grandchildren dubbed her MawMaw, which she was then called most adoringly for the remainder of her life.

When MawMaw retired, she moved to an old pine tree farm in Hilliard and enjoyed her days and talents fully, watching Matlock and HeeHaw, tending to vegetable and flower gardens, perfecting fried chicken, cooking and canning strawberry preserves, sewing, listening to Patsy Cline and Tennessee Ernie Ford, front porch birdwatching, devising homespun inventions, hunting for errors in the local newspapers, and loving her dogs Gunner and Nan-Dee. More than anything, MawMaw’s joy was rooted in her family and her faith. These days were MawMaw’s most delightful, hosting cousin sleepovers, attending ball games, caring for her children and grandchildren, and proudly wearing her homemade puff-paint sweaters wherever she went. You knew you were loved when she’d call you “sweedart” or “darling,” wink and blow sugar at you from across the room, whisper something goofy just for you to hear, bring you fresh cut flowers from her garden, or place small strips of handwritten notes for you to find in your belongings. She never sang folk songs the same way twice, could always be found outside, and loved to pinch and poke. She sang absolutely everything. She was perfectly huggable, snuggling her head under your chin and wrapping you up in a squeeze you’d never want to break from; an eternal embrace we feel today as we remember her sweet, special life. MawMaw, we love you the most. She is preceded in death by her spouses Mr. Farmer and Mr. Hill; her son Bruce Wayne “Butch” Farmer; son-in-law Pat Lynch and 10 siblings.

Surviving family include five children Chuck (Ginger) Farmer, Sandra Lynch (Rick) Fazio, Keith Farmer, Nancy (Michael) Blyler and Diane Farmer; step-son Bob (Meg) Hill; 11 grandchildren Josh (Crystal) Farmer, Michele Farmer, Morgan Farmer, Garry (Danene) Lynch, Jason (Joy) Lynch, Daniel Lynch, Bethany (Jeremy) Roca, Leslie Baker, John Blyler, Jenna Blyler, Tabitha Cano, Abigail Hill, and Katarina Hill; and 11 great-grandchildren; and a host of family members and friends.

The family will receive friends Friday, February 23 from 11 a.m. – noon at The Event Center at Peoples, 14165 N. Main Street, Jacksonville, prior to the celebration of life service at noon. Interment will follow at Jones Cemetery, Callahan.

Condolences may be expressed at: www.pffh.com. Arrangements by Peoples Family Funeral Homes, Jacksonville.