

### VELMA THOMAS DUKES



Velma Thomas Dukes, 87, of Hilliard, passed away peacefully Monday, April 8. Velma was born in Millwood, Georgia and eventually moved to Jacksonville, where she worked for Crowley Maritime for nearly 20 years. At the Union Train Station in 1950, the love of Velma's life, Jake, asked for her hand and began their eternal love story. Velma and Jake raised their family in Riverview and moved to Hilliard after he retired, where they lived for the remainder of their lives. Velma spent much of her later years creating beautiful quilts for those she held dear. To see her collection is to see a wondrous expression of her love and care. Every quilt is unique, but each was created with diligence, loyalty, and most of all love for the person who received it.

Velma is preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Leona; her brother Luther; and her loving husband of nearly 48 years, JB (Jake) Dukes.

Velma is survived by many family members and friends who loved her dearly, including her brothers Billy and Carol; her children Janet, Randy, and John; her grandchildren Jonathan, Ashley, Shane, and Elizabeth; her great-grandchildren Macy, Kelsey, Jackson, Jake, Vanessa, Brooke, Colin, Amelia, Isla Oak, and Stokes; and five great-great-grandchildren.

A graveside service was held Monday, April 15 at Hardage-Giddens Riverside Memorial Park. The family received friends prior to the funeral service.

The family requested, in lieu of wearing dark colors at the service, to wear beautiful spring colors in honor of Velma.

The family received friends for a reception following the service at Lake Shore Baptist Church, 2363 Blanding Boulevard.

Hardage-Giddens Riverside Memorial Park and Funeral Home, served the family.