

VIOLA GAY “PINKY” KIRKLAND



Viola Gay “Pinky” Kirkland, 92, of Callahan, passed away November 29, 2023 following a lengthy illness. She was born November 27, 1931 in Mathias, West Virginia. She resided in Jacksonville for many years before moving to Callahan. She retired from BellSouth (Southern Bell/AT&T) following a long career as a manager in the business office. She had been a member of or volunteered for many organizations throughout her lifetime. In later years she was a member of the “seniors” at the COA in Hilliard (Council on Aging) where she enjoyed many afternoons with new friends whom she recalled fondly.

She is preceded in death by her husband of 50+ years Maurice “Kirk” Kirkland; her parents Walter and Virgie O’Leary Wilkens; sister Violet Wilkens; step-daughter Daurice “Dee” Pope and son-in-law Windell Pope; and grandson Ronnie Hayden.

Survivors include her grandchildren Robby (Rachelle) Polk, Dawn (Joe) Cothron of Callahan and Vince (Donna) D’Antoni; great-grandchildren Jessica “Nikki” (Roland) Koci, Lauren D’Antoni, Casey and Kelly Polk, James (Haley) Campbell and Erin D’Antoni; great-great grandchildren Alec Koci and Madison (Campbell) Whaley; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Pinky maintained many enduring friendships, namely but not limited to who the family affectionately referred to as “Pinky’s Posse” Wilma Whittemore, Alice Harrell and Gerry Snipes, she loved them all and will be missed by many friends and neighbors.

The family wishes to thank her caregivers of Community Hospice of Nassau’s staff specifically Belinda, Jody and Kelly, COA’s staff namely Lucille and most dearly “Ms. Lillie” Milton, all provided an incredible level of care and companionship.

The funeral service was held Tuesday, December 5 at Callahan Methodist Church with beloved Pastor Bodie Ridley officiating. A luncheon followed the service provided by church members organized by her dear friend Gerry Snipes.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the COA of Hilliard, 37002 Ingham Rd., Hilliard, FL 32046.

Arrangements under the direction of Nassau Funeral Home, Callahan, 904-879-1770.

Visit www.nassaufh.com to sign the family’s guest book.