



Carolyn Ann (Ritter) Wheelock

September 19, 2021

Carolyn Ann (Ritter) Wheelock

She was called to her forever home on the evening of September 19, 2021.

Carolyn was born in Knoxville, TN and spent her childhood in Grainger County, TN. She was a graduate of Rutledge High School. She attended ETSU, Florida Southern College (BA), and Rollins College (Masters). In 1967, she married and moved to Lakeland, FL.

Carolyn served the Polk County School Board for 30 years as an English teacher. The majority of her career was spent at Kathleen Junior High and Lake Gibson High School. She will be remembered by generations of students for not only her passion to teach, but more over, her authentic love and care for each student that passed through her doors. Students that will remember the many voices that she would use as she read to them Shakespeare, Edgar Allen Poe, and anything else she could use to keep her students engaged and excited to learn.

Over the years, Carolyn enjoyed many hours on various golf courses. She absolutely loved doing crossword puzzles. She was capable of finishing the daily crossword puzzle in less than 15 minutes. On Sundays, she finished it in 30 which is no easy task. Besides her family, she loved and tended to all of God's creatures to include dogs, cats, and even a snake on occasion.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Conrad Ritter and Ruth (Grabeel)

Ritter; sister, Janet Ritter.

She is survived by Emily Wheelock-Moses, daughter; Mackenzie (Seth) Tanner, granddaughter; Nathaniel Tanner, great-grandson; Margie (sister) and Donnie May; Jack (brother) and Nancy Ritter; 3 nephews and a host of other family and friends. In addition, she leaves her beloved cat, Dondon.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, September 25 at 11 AM at Sunrise Cemetery in Rutledge, TN.

In lieu of flowers please continue her love and care for animals by donating to your local SPCA or animal shelter.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

SEP **25**. 11:00 AM.

Sunrise Cemetery

Tribute Wall

TS

“Theresa Fletcher Shepherd lit a candle in memory of Carolyn Ann (Ritter) Wheelock



Theresa Fletcher Shepherd - June 01, 2022 at 10:08 AM



“Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Carolyn Ann (Ritter) Wheelock.



September 23, 2021 at 09:46 AM

TH

“My sincere condolences to the family. She was a wonderful teacher. Love spending time at her home with her and Emily. Praying for Emily and the family in this time of need. 🙏🙏

Tammy Higgins - September 23, 2021 at 06:02 AM

DH

“My thoughts and prayers are lifted up for God to provide you with your every need in this heartbreaking time. 💕💕💕🙏🙏 Carolyn was an amazing woman.💕

Debra Herrington - September 22, 2021 at 07:42 PM

JF

“ I absolutely loved Mrs. Wheelock . I had her for English at Kathleen Jr High. She motivated me to do my best and would give me extra credit to complete. I finished her class with a 111 A . She would tell me it wouldn't read on my report 111 but I would know in my heart what I accomplished. She was such an Amazing teacher, motivator and a sweet sweet lady. I wish I'd got to keep up with her after school. She will be missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family, friends, students and her cat.
God bless !

John Stacy Freeman - September 22, 2021 at 01:53 PM

BP

“ Ahhhh! Mrs. Carolyn Ritter Wheelock, you and I go back along way. I just told Emily how I admired you and Robin Powell for being such trendsetters with your short Dorothy Hammil hairdos and attitudes. Oh how I've loved you from the moment we met! If you're reading this...tee hee...get your red marker OUT! I loved coming to your home and seeing a real family when I was young, your legs and laughter made me smile around the pool! Great gams I still thought as I rubbed your feet not 48 hours before you took your last breath! I will always smile when Emily calls me BONZO because that was your pet name for me because I was always clowning around or maybe it was because I was all limbs back then and tangled up in myself; perhaps both. You offered me safety in your home, your classroom and in your life. No matter the time apart, your arms were always open with a smile when BONZO came around. Crossword puzzles beside you when I'd come by too! You touched so many generations of lives and will be missed bagazillions...that was NEVER in one of your puzzles because there isn't a word to describe the impact you've had during your time here on Earth! RIP and I will look for signs 💖👻💖 I love you always!

Bonnie Patterson-James - September 22, 2021 at 12:27 PM