



Mrs. Ann Bates

December 27, 1934 - December 27, 2023

Mrs. Mildred Ann Bates completed her journey through this world on her 89th birthday, December 27th, 2023.

Born Mildred Annette Neal December 27th, 1934, to Earl E. and Mary Louvenia Strickland Neal in her parents' home in Pheba, Mississippi. A graduate of Clay County Agricultural School in Pheba and later a first-generation college graduate when she completed her studies in Home Economics at Mississippi State College for Women in Columbus, Mississippi.

Before graduation, Ann met Bobby Joe Bates, of Columbus, while he was on leave from his service with the United States Navy. They courted until the end of his submariner duties with the Navy. After college graduation, she served the Marks, Mississippi community as the Home Economics extension agent. In June 1958, Bob and Ann were married at Pheba Baptist Church and moved to the Dallas, Texas area where Bob served in the United States Air Force. After 5 years, they relocated back to Pheba, where they lived since 1965.

Mrs. Ann retired from 30 years of teaching in the Clay and Webster County school districts in 1992, having influenced hundreds of elementary children through her classroom, Sunday school class or through intentional encounters. Her teaching ministry touched many people; evidenced by the overwhelming numbers that would constantly approach her to remind her that

she taught them.

Walking through her yard, one could see her love for flowers and gardening cultivated by her through her Master Gardener certification. Ann was well known for her cooking skills, most notably her home-made bread. Her bread starter has been shared widely across generations of friends and family.

Ann's greatest loves were God, her husband, Bob, her children and grandchildren. She cherished the 4th of July BBQ tradition started by her father as a time to bring her family home and enjoy time with old and new friends while "Pinching the Pig." She loved every part of her life; her faith, her husband, her family, her home, and working with children. As we think of the life that she led, the words gracious, kind, loving, devoted and contentment come to mind. An aspiring legacy to us all.

She is survived by her husband of 65 years, Bob, two sons, Joe (wife, Susan), Tim (wife Ann), one daughter, Catherine (husband Jody), as well as seven grandchildren (Jennifer, Shannon, Ellen, Molly, Joel, Mary Catherine, and Taylor) and sixteen great-grandchildren, and one sister, Mary Banks.

Visitation will be Saturday, December 30, 2023, from 1:00-2:00 P.M. at Pheba Baptist Church in Pheba. Funeral services will follow at 2:00 P.M. at Pheba Baptist Church with Reverend Clifton Curtis officiating and assisted by Mr. Danny White. Burial will follow in Pheba Cemetery in Pheba. Calvert Funeral Home of West Point is honored to be entrusted with the arrangements.

Pallbearers will be Jody Ray, Joel Ray, Taylor Ray, Chase Brown, Chad Kirchoff, Braxton Harris, Eddie Strickland, and Clayton Williams.

Memorials may be made to The Baptist Children's Village, P. O. Box 27, Clinton, Mississippi 39060.

Friends may leave an online condolence at www.calvertfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Pheba Cemetery

Hwy 50 West
Pheba, MS 39755

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 30. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Pheba Baptist Church
1251 S Beasley Rd
Pheba, MS 39755

Funeral Service

DEC 30. 2:00 PM (CT)

Pheba Baptist Church


Tribute Wall

PW

“ *Ann (Neal) Bates was a wonderful, caring person. She was my Student Christian Association Big Sister in when I arrived at MSCW in September of 1954. Feeling very anxious when I arrived, Ann took me under her wing and made everything good. I am so sorry for your loss. Her absence from this world creates a big hole. You, her loving family, are her legacy to the world. May God bless each of you.*

Polly Horne Wright

Polly Horne Wright - January 05, 2024 at 01:29 PM

 Helen Ormon

“ *Bobby, you and your family have my condolences over the loss of Ann. I knew her mainly in our youth and knew of Ann from her mother, with whom I worked at a dress shop on Saturdays. Ann excelled in high school and has always excelled and been loved. At the W Ann treated me kindly when I was unhappy. Mr. And Mrs. Neal welcomed Ann's friends on weekends. You may not remember that Ann introduced you to me when you were home on leave from the Navy and I was a W freshman. I have fond memories of Ann.*

Helen Ormon - January 03, 2024 at 03:59 PM

JD

“ *Bobby Joe...at times like these, there is nothing anyone can say that will ease the pain and loss you feel. Just know, old friend, that you have my condolences and thoughts and prayers as you go through this most trying of times. Buddy Dyson*

John Dysonj - December 29, 2023 at 12:07 PM

LH

“ *Mr. Bob and Mrs. Ann have always been very special to me and my family. She was my first grade teacher. But what I remember and cherish most is all her teaching and participating at church. She loved children and music. I am so thankful she taught my son at church. A great Christian lady and a wonderful family.*

Lesia Henry - December 29, 2023 at 09:07 AM

JS

Mrs. Bates was my first grade teacher. She was such a kind, patient, and sweet lady that had a special gift in educating children. Thinking of her throughout all of these years have always brought back fond memories. Prayers for comfort are with the family now and the days ahead.

Judy McClain Sims

Judy Sims - January 04, 2024 at 01:11 AM

JS

“ *Tim, so sorry for your and your family's loss. Your mother sounded like a very special lady. As a teacher she touched countless lives. I pray her memories live on.*

Love, Jane Lambert Statham

Jane Lambert Statham - December 28, 2023 at 06:20 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ann Bates.*



December 28, 2023 at 05:24 PM

BB

“ I will always cherish Mrs. Ann Bates. She was my 1st grade teacher & was my favorite teacher even all the way thru high school. After she retired & I started working she would keep in touch. She will be missed her on earth but we know she is rejoicing with Jesus right now. Many prayers for the family in the days to come.
Becky Upchurch Bishop

Becky Upchurch Bishop - December 28, 2023 at 03:59 PM

RP

“ Richard & Mel, Bob & Patti purchased the Dawn of Remembrance Basket for the family of Mrs. Ann Bates.



Richard & Mel, Bob & Patti - December 28, 2023 at 01:46 PM

RP

“ Richard & Mel, Bob & Patti planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Ann Bates.

Richard & Mel, Bob & Patti - December 28, 2023 at 01:46 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ann Bates.



December 28, 2023 at 12:25 PM

MC

“ So sorry for your loss. I sure thought a lot of Mrs. Ann and Mr Bates, so kind. Praying for the family in the days to come.

Mary Ann Crowley - December 28, 2023 at 10:13 AM

KW

“ Mrs. Ann and Mr. Bob have been two of the most special people in my life. I have many fond memories of playing with the Bates children when we were growing up in Pheba. Most of all, I am thankful that she taught both of my children in Sunday School and Bible School. She has touched the lives of so many people by showing God's love to everyone she met.

Karen Walker - December 28, 2023 at 07:16 AM

MG

“ Mrs. Ann Bates was the most genuine person. She had a heart of gold with enough love for everyone and she loved everyone! She was the best thing about Pheba Baptist Church when I attended years ago. When I would see her out by chance my heart was full as our eyes met and she smiled her sweet smile. Our last encounter was at the local grocery store in Mathiston and as always she asked about my family, mentioning each person by name, she loved us all and said so always! A true servant of God and one day when I grow up I hope to be just like her (I said to her) She filled my heart and helped kindle my spirit as my Christian faith grew... She will be truly missed by me and many others.

Melanie Bigham Gordon - December 27, 2023 at 11:52 PM

BB

“ Ann Bates was my 1st Sunday School teacher in Pheba. I was extremely shy, but I was willing to talk in her class. When we spoke of every one having a talent, I explained that I had no talent for anything. She made me understand that I had one very special talent. I have kept that talent in mind throughout my life.

Bernice Burkeen - December 27, 2023 at 11:09 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ann Bates.



December 27, 2023 at 09:51 PM

EH

“ When my daughter, Emily, was in her first grade class, Ann would say, " I have 19 boys 9 girls, and then there is Emily. She had such a great sense of humor. Emily adored her, but gave her a run for her and Janice Brunte a run for their money.

Ann was the first person to speak to me when I started working for East Webster Elementary. She sat right down by me and introduced herself. We found out that we had people in common and from there grew the friendship.

She loved her family fiercely, but was always glad to include others in her circle. Though I have been away from the area for years, I have thought of Ann and her family and the generosity of the whole Bates family. Occasionally my children bring her up and we all smile. Bob, Joe, and Mary Catherine...if anyone is now an angel, it is Ann. I am so sorry for your loss.

Evelyn Huddleston - December 27, 2023 at 06:28 PM

DW

“ Ms Ann was always a special person to me, when I worked at Walmart, her and Mr Bob always looked me up to help them find what they were looking for. Her and Mr Bob were instrumental in my Christian life. She will be Missed

Debbie White - December 27, 2023 at 06:17 PM

KF

“ So many memories of Mrs. Ann, from teaching me in Sunday school, and running around with her two sons when we were younger. She was a dear friend that I always enjoyed seeing when going back to visit Pheba. She will be missed by many

Kenneth (Buddy) Forrester - December 27, 2023 at 06:14 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mrs. Ann Bates.



December 27, 2023 at 06:03 PM

RF

“ Rob and Debbie Taylor and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Ann Bates.

Rob and Debbie Taylor and family - December 27, 2023 at 06:03 PM