



Ida Kate Nelson

November 24, 1934 - May 9, 2026

Ida Kate Mitchell Nelson, age 91, of Southaven, Mississippi, and formerly of Adams, Tennessee, passed away on May 9, 2026, at Shepherd Hospice House in Southaven, Mississippi. Funeral Services are as follows: Visitation will be held Friday, May 15, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at Austin and Bell Funeral Home in Springfield, Tennessee. Funeral services will be held immediately following visitation in the funeral home chapel. Interment will follow services where Mrs. Nelson will be laid to rest by her husband, Joe Nelson, at the Adams Cemetery in Adams, Tennessee.

Officiating will be her son-in-law, Terry Collins. Songs will be led by her son-in-law, Dennis Yarbrough and her grandson, Jonathan Collins. Her daughter, Jackie Ackerman, will speak on behalf of the family. Pallbearers are Jonathan Collins, William "BJ" Ackerman, Brian Burton, Nichy Bell, Andrew Bell, and Eli Bell.

Mrs. Nelson was born on November 24, 1934, in Adams, Tennessee, to the late John A. Mitchell and Mary Mollie Adkins Mitchell. Her youth was spent in Adams, Tennessee, on a farm managed by her father. Mrs. Nelson attended Bell School in Adams, Tennessee, and Jo Byrns High School in Cedar Hill, Tennessee. She played basketball for the Red Devils. She fell in love with a young sailor from Greenbrier, Tennessee. They married on May 14, 1952. While her young sailor was deployed to the Battleship Wisconsin, during the

Korean War, Mrs. Nelson lived with her parents. Since Mr. Nelson was a 20-year career sailor, they lived at several different duty stations on the eastern seaboard from Rhode Island to Key West, Florida. She greatly enjoyed her life as a proud Navy wife and serving God in the Church of Christ all the days of her life. Upon her husband's retirement, they operated an insurance, real estate and tax business in Southaven, Mississippi.

Mrs. Nelson is survived by three daughters: Mary Jo (Dennis) Yarbrough of Horn Lake, Mississippi; Janice (Terry) Collins of Dothan, Alabama; Jackie (Ricky) Ackerman of Olive Branch, Mississippi; a brother, Ricky Lee Mitchell of Cumberland Furnace, Tennessee; seven grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, two step great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her brothers, John Mitchell, Jr. and Tommy Mitchell.

In lieu of flowers, family requests kind donations be sent to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or by visiting www.stjude.org

Austin & Bell Funeral Home in Springfield is in charge of these arrangements.

AUSTIN & BELL FUNERAL HOME-
509 WALNUT STREET, SPRINGFIELD, TN (615) 384-1000

Cemetery Details

Adams Cemetery

308 S Church Street
Adams, TN 37010

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 15. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Austin & Bell Funeral Home Springfield
509 Walnut St.
Springfield, TN 37172
(615) 384-1000
<https://austinandbell.com>

Funeral Service

MAY 15. 12:00 PM (CT)

Austin & Bell Funeral Home Springfield
509 Walnut St.
Springfield, TN 37172
(615) 384-1000
<https://austinandbell.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ida Kate Nelson.*



May 14 at 07:18 PM



“ *Mama was my best friend. She was only 18 years older than me and I had her all to myself for about my first 6 years. Daddy was away in the US Navy a lot. She was my playmate. She read a whole stack of Little Golden books to me every night. She cut out my paper rolls and colored with me in my color books. She would frown a little when I took some of her bath powder to decorate the mud pies I made or took one of the apartment owner's gardenias from the bush in her yard. When my two sisters came along, I became mama's right arm in helping take care of them. We had many adventures during our Navy years and after daddy's retirement. When mama became bedridden it was an honor and a privilege to care for her. Caregiving is the hardest job I ever had. Thank God my sisters and I and some amazing care givers were able to keep her in her home for almost the entire time. I know mama has rest and peace now and is safe in the arms of our Lord and Savior. Her last sentences were spoken one after the other. She said, "I love you. Be good. Go to church." Love you forever mama. Mary Jo*

Mary Yarbrough - May 13 at 08:23 PM



Mary Jo, your momma was lucky to have you as her daughter, and you are lucky to have her as your momma. God bless you all.

Laura Lou Marbut - May 14 at 10:34 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ida Kate Nelson.

May 12 at 12:28 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ida Kate Nelson.



May 12 at 12:28 PM



“ So many memories of her from my childhood! She loved her flowers (especially Irises!) and she loved birds. I always admired her ceramic bird figurines. I remember sitting next to her in church, going thru her purse to find gum. She always had her notebook to take notes during the sermon, so I had my own notebook except I would draw in it instead of taking notes. Oops! I remember watching episodes of “Bewitched” and “I Dream of Jeanie” at her house, and I still can see her face light up with laughter so clear in my mind. I could go on and on. She may be gone from this world, but never forgotten.

Candice Brasfield - May 11 at 11:42 PM



Lovely! Thank you, Candy.

Mary Yarbrough - May 13 at 02:56 PM

JA

“ I have so many happy memories of my precious, sweet, dear mama. There is not enough room to list them. She will forever be in my heart.

Jackie Lee Ackerman - May 11 at 05:14 PM

JC

My sweet mama is in heaven now and out of pain. Too many memories to share. Will miss her forever.

Janice Collins - May 11 at 07:24 PM

JC

Gonna miss Grandma very much. I'm happy Papa has his girl.

Jonathan Collins - May 11 at 08:40 PM

MY

Yes, indeed! He called her his "Sweetie." He called her that in front of my students when he visited my classroom one day. From then on I had students who would ask me about how Sweetie was doing.

Mary Yarbrough - May 13 at 08:27 PM