MARY LEE BRYAN



Mary Lee (Reynolds) Bryan, 77, of Southern Pines, passed away peacefully in her home on November 10, 2026, surrounded by family. Born in Troy, North Carolina to Claude J. and Cannie Mae Reynolds of Biscoe, Mary was a lifelong educator and storyteller. She graduated from East Montgomery High School and earned her degrees in education from Pfeiffer University and North Carolina A&T University. She spent 50+ years educating children and loved every minute of it. In her retirement, and even after she was diagnosed with ALS, Mary continued to mentor future teachers, igniting in them the same passion she had in all of her years of teaching.

Mary was a lover of the arts. She loved listening to live music and always found a reason to dance. She came alive acting with the Marco Players and loved volunteering her time involving the arts and community. She was an avid reader and storyteller, was a docent for Collier County Museums and dedicated her time to programs at the Campbell House and Weymouth Center. She participated in the National Writing Project and enjoyed writing her own poetry. She volunteered with the Collier County Chamber of Commerce, Sugden Community Theatre and the Sunrise Theatre. She was a lay speaker with Page Memorial United Methodist Church. She returned to North Carolina after living in Florida for many years and was welcomed into the First Baptist Church of Biscoe with open arms.

To Mary, family was everything, and she always loved family gatherings. She adored her nieces, nephews and their children just as much as her children and grandchildren. They all brought her absolute joy, and she never missed a moment to visit with them or brag about them to her friends. Mary lived her life to the fullest and reminded everyone how important it was to find joy in everything. She will be missed more than she will ever know.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her sons, Craig King, Todd King (Melinda) and Jason King (Erin); her siblings, Molly Abbott (Wayne), Sammy Reynolds (Kathy), Junior Reynolds and Martha Garner (Eddie); and her beloved grandchildren, Chloe King, Sydney Thomas, Daniel King and Sophia King.

The family is holding a Celebration of Life with her church family. In lieu of flowers, please donate to First Baptist Church of Biscoe.

The family would also like to acknowledge FirstHealth Hospice and Palliative Care, Compassionate Care ALS, Team Gleason, De's Quality Home Care and Torrie Cowan, who all made living with a terrible illness that much easier.