



Melvia Burns Soyars Echols

May 5, 1942 - April 3, 2025

Melvia Burns Soyars Echols, 82, of Danville, passed away on Friday, April 3, 2025 at Sovah Health – Danville.

Born on May 5, 1942, she was a daughter of the late Melford Garland Burns and Gladys Buchanan Elliott Burns.

She spent her life in Danville and worked for Dan River Mills. Melvia was of the Baptist faith.

She loved her family and love to spending time with them. She enjoyed a close relationship with her sister Jean. They enjoyed decades of cooking together, shopping and preparing for holidays every year.

Melvia is survived by her sister, Jean B. Walker; a niece Kimberly Prien (Walter Prien, Jr.); two nephews, Scott Walker and Sean Rodgers; and a special great-nephew, Walter Harrison Prien.

Melvia became Maw Maw to Harrison when he was born and was his primary babysitter for his first five years of life. She was such a creative person who enjoyed painting, crocheting, cooking, coloring and many other hobbies.

In addition to her parents, Melvia was preceded in death by her first husband, Jeff Soyars and a sister, Ruth B. Rodgers.

The funeral service will be held on Monday, April 7, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at the Wrenn-Yeatts Funeral Home, Westover Chapel with Pastor Duane Blevins officiating. Interment will follow in Highland Burial Park.

The family will receive friends prior to the service from 1:00 p.m. until 1:45 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions, in lieu of flowers, may be made to Bachelors Hall Volunteer Fire Department, 1301 Berry Hill Road, Danville, VA 24541 or to the Danville-Pittsylvania Cancer Association, Inc., 223 Riverview Dr., Suite J, Danville, VA 24541.

Wrenn-Yeatts Funeral Homes, Westover Chapel, is respectfully serving the Echols family.

Cemetery Details

Highland Burial Park

3049 North Main Street
Danville, VA

Previous Events

Interment

APR 7 (ET)

Highland Burial Park
3049 North Main Street
Danville, VA

Tribute Wall



“ *Dear Jean you are all in my thoughts and prayers
I love you very much
Love Pat*

Patricia Foster - April 05, 2025 at 10:28 PM