



## Mrs. Shirley Raker Nelson

October 27, 1935 - December 7, 2021

Shirley Raker Nelson, 86, went to her heavenly home and to her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on December 7, 2021.

Shirley was born October 27, 1935, to Davis Raker and Jenny Vause Raker, in Crawfordville, Florida. During her early years, she enjoyed the time that her family spent in Newport, Florida during World War II, while her dad worked in the shipyards building land barges to be used in the invasion on D Day. Her family moved to Tallahassee and she graduated from Leon High School in 1953, and from the secretarial program at Lively Vo Tech, after which she worked in the Registrar's Office at Florida State University. During her work at FSU, she met a dashing young veteran named Charlie Paul Nelson, whom she married on July 17, 1955 (she insisted he graduate first!). Shirley and Paul had two sons, David Park Nelson and John Perry Nelson, and lived their entire married life of over 64 years in Tallahassee until Paul's death in 2019.

Shirley was a founding teacher of East Hill Baptist Church's preschool, where she was a member since 1958, and taught Sunday School to children and youth for 50 years. She took great pride in the 22 years she worked in the admitting office of Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, and was an active member and officer in the TMH retiree organization.

Those who knew and loved her would say that Shirley was a devoted

Christian who devoted her life to caring for others. She was also affectionately known as "techno-Granny," because of her love for and proficiency with a variety of electronic "gadgets." She took great delight in her sons, her nieces Diane, Cyndy, and Karen, whom she affectionately called "her girls,"; her grandchildren and great-grandson, and looked forward to meeting the great-grandson on the way. She was a shining example of how to love unconditionally.

Shirley is predeceased by her husband, Paul, and her beloved (and very large) cat, Twix, who provided great comfort to her after Paul's passing. She is survived by her brother, Dave Raker (Susan); her sons Park (Li) and Perry; her grandchildren Kenny (Carolina), Bethany, Alex, Morgan Olivia, and Matthew; her great-grandson Charlie; and a host of other relatives with whom she shared great times, much laughter, and good food.

The family is especially grateful for the loving care provided by Shirley's great-niece, Megan Layton, and the staffs of Big Bend Hospice and Hopewell during her final weeks. A visitation will be held at East Hill Baptist Church on Monday, December 13th, at 10:00, followed by a memorial service at 11:00. Burial will be at 2:00 at Tallahassee Memory Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to East Hill Baptist Church, 912 Miccosukee Road, Tallahassee, Florida 32308. Online condolences may be made at [www.abbeyfh.com](http://www.abbeyfh.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Tallahassee Memory Gardens

4037 North Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 562-1518  
<https://www.abbeyfh.com/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 13. 10:00 AM (ET)

East Hill Baptist Church  
912 Miccosukee Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32308

## Service

DEC 13. 11:00 AM (ET)

East Hill Baptist Church  
912 Miccosukee Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32308

# Tribute Wall

NH

“ Mrs. Nelson was one of my favorite people. Her devotion to family and friends (including my mom) was indicative of the type of person she was. I enjoyed her laugh and her sense of humor and her sheer love of life. I had the fortune of being one of her pupils in Sunday School and later on teaching in that same Sunday School classroom. What a bright light she was and always will be. My sincerest condolences to Park and Perry and the entire family.

Nathan Hipps - December 13, 2021 at 10:02 AM

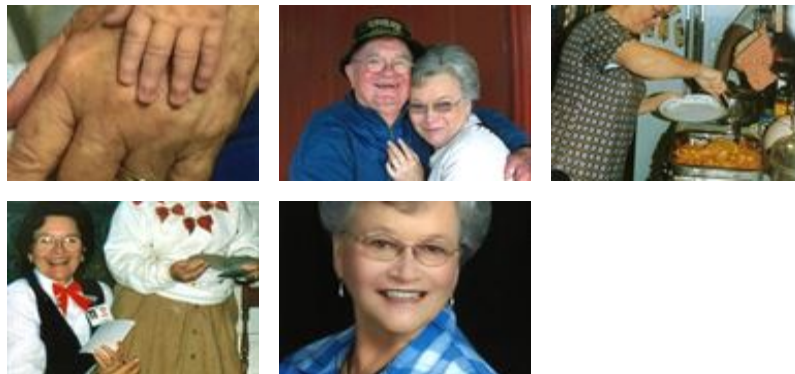
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“ All the Nelson family have been a shining light in this world. Ms. Shirley will surely be missed. We rest with you in the confident assurance of life eternal for all those who take Jesus as Savior and Lord! Our sincere condolences 🌸 , Pat and Emily Brown

Emily Brown - December 11, 2021 at 06:33 AM



“ 46 files added to the album Life Tributes



Abbey Funeral Home and Tallahassee Memory Gardens - December 10, 2021 at 12:52 PM

TM

“ *Back in the 1980's I worked under Mrs. Shirley Nelson at TMH and with her christian influence she was one of several people that added to leading me to Jesus. Very strong faith she had. So blessed to have been able to share time in my life with her. Forever blessed by her. She was a blessing 4 sure. Will see her again in heaven.*

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**Tammy P Melvin** - December 10, 2021 at 12:07 AM