



## Carleen Newell Flowers

December 24, 1931 - January 13, 2026

Carleen Flowers, age 94 of Albany, died peacefully on January 13, 2026 in Athens, Georgia.

Born December 24, 1931 in Albany, Georgia, Carleen was the beloved only child of Carl Vernon and Jesse Hall Newell. A graduate of Albany High, Carleen attended Georgia State Woman's College (now Valdosta State), where she joined Chi Omega and the college dance troupe. She completed her degree at Mercer University, where she was an active member of many student organizations. At Mercer, she met her husband, J. W. "Dub" Flowers, Sr. of Liberty County, and they were married in June 1953. They celebrated 60 years of happy marriage before his passing in July 2013.

Carleen was a middle and high school educator and for over 30 years. She taught Math (and later, Computer Skills) in Warner Robbins, Cuthbert, Edison, and Albany. She inspired countless young people, many of whom kept in touch with her even after she retired.

Carleen was a role model of Southern womanhood. She made it look easy to teach middle school, stew smothered dove or bake a 14-layer Mandy Cake, walk and pray with friends, can and freeze garden vegetables, organize Flowers Family Reunions, and still make time to play with her grandchildren and volunteer. In Albany, she generously and tirelessly served in

organizations including Delta Kappa Gamma society for women educators, Garden Club, Woman's Club, Phoebe Putney Hospital Mended Hearts, and Georgia Retired Teachers. At Sherwood Baptist, she taught and ministered to the senior ladies Vota Vita Sunday School class for over 25 years. She also used her math and computer skills to volunteer with the Tax-Aide program through SOWEGA Council on Aging. Carleen served God by serving people.

In 2014, Carleen left her longtime hometown of Albany and moved to Athens to be near family. At her new place, St. Mary's Highland Hills Village, she became known as "The Bread Lady" because she would greet every new resident with a fresh loaf of home-baked bread. She joined Beech Haven Baptist Church, where she sent out the weekly prayer letter for her Sunday School and continued to make new friends.

Carleen left a legacy of faith that inspires her family. She was preceded in death by her husband, J.W. "Dub" Flowers, Sr., her daughter Margie, and her dear Hall cousins Dottie Herzog, Helen Cyganiewicz, and Joanne McKemie. She is survived by her daughter Leah Sowell (Greg) and son Wesley Flowers (Gina); grandchildren Rebecca Sowell Nichols (Dan), Stephen Sowell (Amanda), Anna Sowell Harrison (Scott), Will Flowers (Julia), and Rachel Flowers; great grandchildren James, Margarite, Ruthie, Jane Carleen, Ramsay, and Betsy; and many loved cousins, nephews, and nieces.

The family would like to thank the Staff and Care Givers at Arbor Terrace of Athens and Agape Hospice of Clarke County for their love and tender care given to our Nana.

A Celebration of Life will be held Friday, January 16, 2026 at 1:00pm at Lord & Stephens West Funeral Home in Athens, Georgia, and on Saturday, January 17 at 2:00pm at Kimbrell Stern Funeral Home in Albany, Georgia. An informal

visitation will follow both services.

Arrangements will be made by Lord & Stephens Funeral Home in Athens and Kimbrell-Stern in Albany. [www.lordandstephens.com](http://www.lordandstephens.com) <https://www.kimbrellstern.com>

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of your choice or to Okefenokee Fellowship of Christian Athletes in memory of Carleen Flowers: <https://www.okefca.org/donate>

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

JAN 17. 2:00 PM (ET)

Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Directors  
1503 Dawson Rd.  
Albany, GA 31707

## Visitation following the service

JAN 17 (ET)

Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Directors  
1503 Dawson Rd.  
Albany, GA 31707

# Tribute Wall

PL

“ Mrs. Flowers was a wonderful teacher and lady. She taught in an encouraging style and wanted everyone to do their best. So refreshing! She stayed after school most days to help and encourage us. Besides algebra, she taught life lessons. Mrs. Flowers saw each of us as unique individuals. Junior high can be awkward enough. She did her part to make it less so. Mrs. Flowers told me several years ago that she believed God put her in the classroom. I believe it, too. She had an impact on countless lives just by living her life as a Christian.

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**Paul Ladd** - March 06 at 08:30 PM

JF

“ Update for previous comment - I was in her class, '70 - '71 Albany Jr High / Absolute, high on the list of one of the best teachers - - She didn't just teach math - She taught life lessons -  
Johnny Farr

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**Johnny Farr** - January 17 at 02:40 AM

TJ

“ Ms Flowers was my teacher at Albany Jr High back around 71. She was one of the best teachers I could ever remember. She was so passionate in her teaching style and cared so much for her students. She will always hold a special place in my heart.  
Tim Jackson

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**Tim Jackson** - January 17 at 02:12 AM

NB

“ *Carlene was special to our family because of the special attention she gave to our son Danny . She was a special lady & a special teacher. Thank God for her, Nell Blaylock*

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**Nell Blaylock** - January 16 at 08:53 PM

RM

“ *Wes and Leah, when someone says the word- teacher, I think of your mom. She was special. Bless you and all of the family. There are very few teachers that I believe loved me, but I think your mom did, and that was very special to the 8th grade Rick.*

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**Rick Muggridge** - January 16 at 01:32 PM

JW

“ *Leah, I'm so sorry to hear about your mom. I remember her as caring and loving. I remember her putting up with a bunch of us and taking us to Kolomoki for your birthday. Our moms put up with a lot. Then she taught me math ( or tried to) at AJHS. Her patience with me in class has never been forgotten.  
I will be praying for you all.  
Jo Ivey Wood*

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**Jo wood** - January 16 at 02:37 AM

AG

“ *Leah,  
  
I know you will miss your sweet Mom. She was always so fun and full of energy, making everything seem so easy. My condolences on your loss, may a million happy memories comfort each of you at this tough time.*

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**Allan Graham** - January 15 at 07:45 AM

LH

“ Linda and Ed Hahn planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carleen Newell Flowers.

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Linda and Ed Hahn - January 14 at 08:06 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Carleen Newell Flowers.



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January 14 at 08:06 PM

HD

“ Leah, Wesley and family,  
May our God of love and comfort be exactly that for each of you during this time. The memories are many with your family growing up. On behalf of all of my family we send our sincere love and sympathy. Our love to all of you. The DuVall's and The Clacks

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Howard H. DuVall - January 14 at 07:34 PM