

Elizabeth Akins



Elizabeth Taylor Akins was born on August 2, 1931. She is the oldest of 5 children and grew up on Breezy Hill Farm in the red dirt, hill country of Roanoke, Alabama. She died at age 91 on Dec 10th after living her last 51 years in Walden, TN. Like her mother, Lillian Dunn Taylor, she graduated from Auburn University. There she met Frank Terrell Akins, Jr, who had returned from WW II and was attending college on the GI Bill. Her first career was laboratory technology. Frank moved the family to Walden's Ridge, when he became pharmacist at Parkridge Hospital in 1971. When the town of Walden was incorporated in 1975, she was the first town clerk, where her kitchen served as the town hall for many years. Her children hid on Fridays when the

police stopped in for their weekly paychecks and were strong supporters of the current town hall on Taft Highway. She was later elected as mayor off and on for Walden, winning all of her elections, most recently at age 80. She treasured her relationship with Martha McCoy and lobbied and budgeted funds for Walden to acquire and later open the McCoy Farm and Garden. This historic 38 acre farm has been transformed by volunteers and is open and free to the public. Come on up to visit and check out the renovated barn named "Ms. Elizabeth!" She is one of the oldest members of Wayside Presbyterian Church, mainly preferring tradition over change. She is blessed by a tight group of old and new friends. She loved God, family, Walden and Chattanooga politics, reading, cooking, gardening, dogs, travel, the undefeated 2011 Auburn War Eagles national championship football team, but mostly sharing time with any and all who came near. She is survived by her 4 children, Frank Terrell Akins, III; Elizabeth (Beth) Anne Akins; Paul Taylor Akins; and Nancy Jane Akins Manning; their spouses; 8 grandchildren; and 4 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Frank, and brother Kirk. She wishes donations in lieu of flowers be directed to Wayside Presbyterian Church and the McCoy Farm and Garden. A celebration of life will be planned and announced later.

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