



## Mrs. Gertie Holmes Layson

September 9, 1931 - February 4, 2014

Gertie Holmes Layson, native of Hiawassee and longtime resident of Eatonton, died Tuesday, February 4, 2014. She was born on September 9, 1931, to the late Truman Holmes and the late Stella Brown Holmes. Gertie is survived by her husband, Van, who she married on June 2, 1951 at the First United Methodist Church parsonage in Eatonton. They met while attending Young Harris College in Young Harris, Georgia, and made Eatonton their home in 1966.

She taught school for 31 years, beginning at age 18 at Shoal Creek School in White County, Georgia. Gertie spent 28 years teaching children in Putnam County. In 1993-1994, she was named Butler Baker Elementary School teacher of the year. One of her greatest joys was instilling curiosity into her students about the world and all of its creatures. For example, while teaching third grade she won a scholarship to visit Minnesota and observe sled dogs being trained for an Antarctic exploration. She brought back her experience and observations to the classroom and she and her students tracked the expedition as the explorers and their dogs moved across the frozen continent. To support future educators, she and Van established a scholarship fund at Young Harris College for students from the North Georgia or Western Carolina area pursuing a degree in elementary education. She was honored by the Young Harris College Alumni Association as a Distinguished Member of the Endowed Century Club, Class of 1950.

Gertie loved playing bridge, reading, playing Scrabble, traveling and making friends and family laugh. And everyone will remember how much she loved to walk and enjoy the birds and speak to everyone she met along the way. She and Van were members of the Rock'n Eagle Squares, a square dance club in Eatonton.

She will be greatly missed by her husband Van and her children; Bobby (Sandy) Layson of LaGrange; Steve Holmes Layson of Macon; Teresa Carol Layson of Burbank, CA ; and Jeannie (John) Layson Shiffer of Clifton, VA. She is also survived by sisters Imogene (Jerry) Turpin of Hiawassee and Anne Edwards of North Bend, Oregon; brothers Steve Holmes and Gerald (Wanda) Holmes of Hiawassee; 4 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren and a number of other relatives.

Gertie was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Eatonton, where she was recently honored on Founder's Day for her longtime devotion and dedication to the church. Donations in her honor may be made to the First Baptist Church, Post Office Box 3400, Eatonton, Georgia 31024.

# Cemetery Details

## Eatonton Memorial Park

Godfrey Rd.  
Eatonton, GA 31024

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 8. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Eatonton First Baptist Church  
Eatonton, GA 31024

# Tribute Wall

MM

“ *MadIn Mickler lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gertie Holmes Layson*



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**madIn mickler** - February 26, 2014 at 09:45 AM

VS

“ *Vanessa Sutherland lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gertie Holmes Layson*



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**Vanessa Sutherland** - February 11, 2014 at 06:59 PM

VA

*I have a sense of how wonderful your mother must have been based on the person that you are. My prayers and thoughts are with you and your family.*

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**Vanessa** - February 11, 2014 at 07:03 PM

MO

“ *Gertie Mae... Growing up and taking trips to Georgia were my best memories. I knew I was down south when we would run into you. All you had to say was "Yall" and then bat your eye lashes. I loved that about you. You instantly lit up the room. I will forever miss you! Thanks for all the great memories!*

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**Mike Oeder** - February 10, 2014 at 09:28 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Gertie Holmes Layson.



February 08, 2014 at 12:01 PM



“ Gary and Carol Oeder and family purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Mrs. Gertie Holmes Layson.



**Gary and Carol Oeder and family** - February 08, 2014 at 10:22 AM



“ Uncle Van, Bobbie, Steve, Terri and Jeannie - So very sorry to hear of your loss! Please know our thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this very sad time!



*Love and Prayers always,  
Gary and Carol Oeder and family*

**Carol Oeder** - February 08, 2014 at 10:10 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Gertie Holmes Layson.



February 08, 2014 at 09:36 AM

KS

“ *Kharen Santos lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gertie Holmes Layson*



**Kharen Santos** - February 07, 2014 at 03:06 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Gertie Holmes Layson.*



February 07, 2014 at 02:16 PM

JC

“ *Janice Campbell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gertie Holmes Layson*



**Janice Campbell** - February 07, 2014 at 09:42 AM

PK

“ *Jeannie--There are no words that can take away the pain in your heart right now, but know that I'm here if you should need anything. My thoughts and prays are with you and your family.*

*Patricia Klinger*

**Patricia Klinger** - February 06, 2014 at 04:21 PM

ED

“ MR. LAYSON & KIDS , SO SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR MOM. I HAVE KNOWN ALL OF YALL FOREVER . SHE WAS A WONDERFUL PERSON . I LOVED HER TO. MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YALL . TAKE CARE ! EDDIE



Edward dixon - February 06, 2014 at 04:12 PM

ED

“ Edward Dixon lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gertie Holmes Layson



Edward dixon - February 06, 2014 at 03:55 PM

LD

“ I never met you Mrs. Layson, but I suspect I get a glimpse of you through your daughter Jeannie. Spitfire when needed, but always wrapped up in a caring heart. Prayers for the family: it always hurts when you lose someone you love - especially your Mom.

~ Linda Daugherty

Linda Daugherty - February 06, 2014 at 02:13 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Gertie Holmes Layson.



February 06, 2014 at 01:49 PM

CW

“ *Part of my bike ride goes through the Windsor neighborhood. Having grown up there, between the Layson boys, the Walker boys, the Knight boys, etc. we always had enough folks for whatever ball was in season. Mrs Layson remembered those days and we occasionally reminisced when she would be out for her walk and I would ride my bike through. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.*

*Chip Walker*

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**chip walker** - February 06, 2014 at 01:09 PM