



## Maurine Sawyer

August 20, 2018

Portsmouth - Maurine Elizabeth Sawyer, a native of Stilson, Georgia, passed away peacefully on August 20, 2018 in her home in Vero Beach, Florida. Maurine graduated in 1938 as Valedictorian of her class at Cradock High School in Portsmouth, Virginia. It was at Cradock that she met her beloved husband of 60 years, Lafayette, who preceded her in death 16 years ago. The couple made their home in Portsmouth, where they lovingly raised their daughters, Patricia and Deborah. Maurine volunteered as a room mother and served as PTA president at Westhaven Elementary where her daughters attended school. Early in her career, Maurine worked as a hairdresser and then after completing secretarial school she was employed at Norfolk Naval Shipyard as a payroll clerk. She was a talented seamstress and cook and took great pleasure in preparing wonderful meals and baked goods for her family and friends. She adored her two grandchildren, Erin and Brent and treasured time spent in their company.

Maurine and Lafayette were active members of Westhaven Baptist Church for many years where Maurine taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. She was a long-standing member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Victory Chapter #16, Chesapeake, VA. In 2006 she moved to Vero Beach, FL to live near her daughter Patricia and son-in-law Robert Smith in her final years.

Maurine was predeceased by her husband, Lafayette Flynn Sawyer and

brother William Heyward McElveen of Norfolk, VA.

She is survived by her brother Aulton Frank McElveen of Sebastian, FL, her daughter Patricia Lynn Sawyer and her husband Robert Leon Smith of Indian River Shores, FL, her daughter Deborah Sue Mitchell of Centreville, MD, two grandchildren, Erin Leigh Mitchell of Centreville, MD, and Brenton James Mitchell and his wife Jacki Skeweris of Honolulu, HI. She is also survived by Erin and Brenton's father Ronald Lee Mitchell of Queenstown, MD, and nieces and nephews residing in Florida and Virginia.

A visitation will be held at the Loving Funeral Home in Portsmouth on Monday, August 27, from 5:00–6:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, the family would be appreciative of contributions in Maurine's memory to Westhaven Baptist Church, Portsmouth, VA.

# Tribute Wall

JE

“ *Debbie Sue, I remember your mom from when she and my mother(Ardelle Eure) were 'room mothers' and active in the PTA at Westhaven(Mrs.Euler, Mrs. Hardin... We are in those class pictures)I grew up on Caroline Avenue and I visited your house a few times and I think you came to one of my birthday parties.Such nice memories. My sympathy to you and your family.*

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**James Eure** - August 27, 2018 at 04:05 PM

DM

*Jimmy Eure! Thank-you for your note of remembrance. I remember your mother Ardelle, as well. She had long blond hair and a sweet smile! Good childhood memories of Westhaven..*

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**Deb Mitchell** - September 03, 2018 at 10:15 PM

DD

“ *Debbie and Pat - I am so sorry to hear that your Mom has passed. She was a sweet lady and have good memories of her when Debbie, Pam and I were growing up in high school. Call me to talk sometime Debbie, because I know how difficult it is to deal with the loss.754-7136.*

*- Debbie Scott Dudek*

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**Deborah Scott Dudek** - August 26, 2018 at 11:22 AM

DM

*Debbie, Thank you for reaching out, and for sharing your good memories of Mom. I remember those days fondly -- we girls were so close. We both had wonderful mothers who are and will be greatly missed. I would love to talk anytime, and will call you soon.*

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**Deb Mitchell** - September 03, 2018 at 10:15 PM

SW

“*Maurine loved all children. When she saw a child, she was immediately drawn to him or her and always wanted to take them in her arms and love on them. It reminds me of the song, "Jesus Loves the Little Children" they are precious in His sight. That's exactly how Maurine felt about them ,every child is precious. Pat and Deb, my prayers and thoughts are with you and the rest of the family.*

*Shawnn*

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**Shawnn Ward** - August 25, 2018 at 05:22 PM

DM

*Shawnn, Thank-you for sharing your sweet memories of the joy Mom felt in the presence of children! Hope to see you soon -*

*Deb*

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**Deb Mitchell** - September 03, 2018 at 10:15 PM

JM

“*My best friends mom... always welcoming to me. Mrs. Sawyer was the sweetest lady . Made the best cake with great chocolate icing.*

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**Judy and Mike** - August 25, 2018 at 03:20 PM

DM

*She loved making cakes for us - those were really good times - thank-you for remembering her gifts of wonderful food for our NC vacations!*

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**Deb Mitchell** - September 03, 2018 at 10:15 PM