



Mrs. Janet Ellen Presley

April 15, 1943 - December 18, 2022

Mrs. Janet Ellen Presley of Jackson, Tennessee passed away on December 18, 2022. She was born April 15, 1943, in Jackson but resided most of her life in Sardis, Tennessee. Her parents were Arlis and Willie (Dyer) Bivens. As a child she attended Sardis School and graduated Valedictorian of her senior class in 1961. She graduated from Freed-Hardeman College in Henderson in 1963 magna cum laude with an Associates of Arts degree when it was a two-year school. She finished her Bachelor's degree at Bethel College in McKenzie, graduating cum laude while teaching full-time and raising a small child. Her master's degree came in 1973 from what was then known as Memphis State University. She began her 36-year teaching career at Sardis School in 1963, moved to Southside Elementary at Reagan when Sardis closed in 1985, and retired at Scotts Hill High School in 2000 as a senior English teacher. She was a very passionate, encouraging, and beloved teacher. According to her husband she felt her greatest accomplishment was seeing her students become passionate about English Literature, especially poetry. Janet was a prolific poet in her on right, writing many poems over the years. She wrote of family, spirituality, "good ole times", animals, and anything that got on her mind. They were usually funny or "tear-jerkers" and many of them pointed to her unwavering faith. She would get an idea, go lock herself in her bedroom, and then come out with the finished product. How many times she said to us, "I wrote a new poem. Would you like to hear it?" A few years ago, a couple of books were put together and published for our family

containing many of her best ones. We will cherish her work for the rest of our lives as a glimpse inside the mind and soul of this beautiful lady. Her spirituality came from her family and church. She attended Hurricane Primitive Baptist Church for her entire life, becoming a member through baptism on July 27, 1986. She played the piano with great skill and sang with a beautiful singing voice. She loved crossword puzzles, reading her Bible, and Hallmark movies. During her retirement she enjoyed camping with her family and traveling in their RV. She and her husband Jimmy traveled to many of the western states, Vermont, New York state, Florida, Arkansas, and others.

She is survived by her husband Jimmy Presley. She also leaves a son Darryl (Denise) Presley of Jackson, a grandson Luke (Jordan) Presley of Jackson, a grandson Chase (Jeni) Presley of North Liberty, Iowa, and a granddaughter Jade Presley of Germantown, Tennessee. Great-grandchildren include Kit, Cece, Liam, and Reese Presley. She also leaves behind a tiny part of herself in the hearts and minds of the many students she has taught over the years. Funeral services are scheduled for 2 PM, Wednesday, December 21 in the chapel of Pafford Funeral Home in Lexington. Interment will follow in Prospect Cemetery in Sardis. The family will receive friends on Tuesday 4-8 PM and on Wednesday 12-2 PM.

Cemetery Details

Prospect Cemetery

Sardis, TN

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **20**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Pafford Funeral Home - Lexington, TN
71 Monroe Ave.
Lexington, TN

Visitation

DEC **21**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Pafford Funeral Home - Lexington, TN
71 Monroe Ave.
Lexington, TN

Chapel Service

DEC **21**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Pafford Funeral Home - Lexington, TN
71 Monroe Ave.
Lexington, TN

Tribute Wall



“ Pafford Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Janet Ellen Presley



Pafford Funeral Home - December 20, 2022 at 01:19 PM

CT

“ She was a very good teacher, hate to see this. My condolences to the family.

Casey Tarnowski - May 02, 2023 at 02:24 PM

MM

“ It was a pleasure to meet Mrs. Presley. She will definitely be missed.

M. McCarroll - December 24, 2022 at 02:54 PM

AM

“ Her accomplishments were many and the lives she influenced are nnumerable. Janet was a fascinating lady and teacher. Soar with the angels, Janet. You are soooo loved.

Alma Joyce Mitchell - December 23, 2022 at 09:15 AM

DA

“ Janet Presley had the most profound influence on my life, under her instruction. Danny and I had her in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade. She influence me to become an educator. Such intellect! Superb instructor! Deborah Sanderson Autry

Deborah Sanderson Autry - December 21, 2022 at 04:08 PM

BM

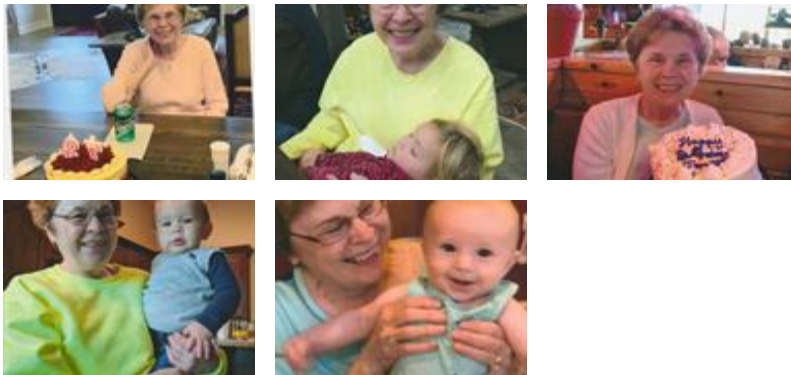
“ So sorry for your loss



Brenda Grice Marr - December 20, 2022 at 02:34 PM



“ 164 files added to the album LifeTributes



Pafford Funeral Home - December 20, 2022 at 01:16 PM

RM

“ miss janet was the best teacher in the world.i remember after lunch she would read charlotts webb.she was the best reader.may god bless your family.from roger mount

roger dale mount - December 20, 2022 at 12:46 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Janet Ellen Presley.*



December 20, 2022 at 12:22 PM



“ *I was lucky enough to have Ms. Janet in grade school and in High School. She would read us poetry, she fostered my love of history, and of writing. She greatly encouraged me in many ways but especially speaking in public. This great lady was just another example of strong, intelligent women I was lucky enough to have in my life. I hope she is enjoying Heaven as much as Heaven is enjoying this fine lady. Love and light Ms. Janet Presley - you were an amazing teacher.*



Melissa Nichols-Scott - December 20, 2022 at 12:11 PM



“ *FirstBank Channing Way purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Mrs. Janet Ellen Presley.*



FirstBank Channing Way - December 20, 2022 at 09:38 AM

VW

“ *Lighting a candle for your sweet mother Darryl. Prayers and Condolences for all your families. This Christmas will be different.*



Vickie Wilburn - December 20, 2022 at 08:11 AM

PD

“ *Polly Darnall lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Janet Ellen Presley*



Polly Darnall - December 20, 2022 at 07:54 AM

CH

“ *As the tears stream down my face all I can think about was what a sweet smile she had and the way she brought history to life for me . I can still see where I sat and have many wonderful memories of her . A few years back our paths crossed and there was that sweet smile and we caught up on my life and hers shared pics of my girls . I loved your sweet mama she was the best teacher ever and a sweet soul I know your hearts are breaking! Prayers for comfort in the days to come .*

Cathy Okeeffe Hedgepath - December 20, 2022 at 06:48 AM

DN

“ *Mrs. Janet was the person all of us young girls aspired to be growing up. She was a beautiful person inside and out. My heart is heavy over her passing. She was the picture of a true Southern Christian lady. My thoughts and prayers are with the family!*

Dana Dillard Nails - December 19, 2022 at 10:13 PM

JH

“ My heart broke when I heard the news. So many memories of my childhood came rushing back all because of this beautiful sole we simply called Ms Janet. She was so many things to so many of us and she will forever be remembered and cherished. Mr Presley and family, you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Judy Tucker Huckstep - December 19, 2022 at 09:57 PM

BS

“ Ms Janet Presley was My 4th 5th and 6th grade Teacher at Sardis The My Son Kevin had Her at Scotts Hill We loved Her so much The most beautiful lady kind and sweet you would ever meet She had made an Impression on alot of kids lives Love You forever prayers for Darryl and the Family

Betty Sims - December 19, 2022 at 09:43 PM

JA

“ I am so sad! Miss Janet was the best. She was a beautiful lady inside and out. She was such a role model and encourager. Prayers for the family.



Jennifer Adams - December 19, 2022 at 09:24 PM

DT

“ Donnie&Phyllis Tubbs lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Janet Ellen Presley



Donnie&Phyllis Tubbs - December 19, 2022 at 08:50 PM



“ *Chris Harrington lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Janet Ellen Presley*



Chris Harrington - December 19, 2022 at 08:13 PM

AH

“ *Ms. Janet ALWAYS had the most beautiful smile and infectious personality that touched so many students lives. She was the highlight of my English class. I'll never forget how she so greatly complimented me on a story I wrote and to this day, I do believe she ask to keep it. I vaguely remember the story, though. I don't ever recall 'Ms. Janet Presley' having a bad day..... if so, she hid it well! Mr. Presley complimented her well and they were a great team. They were both great teachers! Please accept my condolences. I'm very sorry for the family's great loss. May you rest in the arms of Jesus, Ms. Presley!*

Angela Caldwell Harris - December 19, 2022 at 07:50 PM

PW

“ *Peggy Wentworth lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Janet Ellen Presley*



Peggy Wentworth - December 19, 2022 at 07:23 PM

SC

“ *Mrs. Janet, was an "Icon" she was the best.*

Steve Creasy - December 19, 2022 at 07:03 PM



“ So sad to hear the passing of Mrs. Janet Presley, one of the great and iconic teachers of the old Sardis School. She spent 36 years of her life improving the quality of other people's lives. Her contributions to the community will be remembered forever.

From Denise- She was my teacher at the old Sardis School. When I returned in 1983, as the last teacher hired at Sardis, she became a working colleague. In 1984-85 school year she served as principal for our last year at Sardis school. We teamed up again in the 1980's at Scotts Hill. I worked with her until her retirement in 1999. I will always cherish the time I spent with her.

From Bobby- I never knew Mrs Presley, but I knew " Miss Janet" practically my whole life. She was my fourth grade teacher. On this day a flood of memories from my childhood returned. One of my favorite memories was the Friday afternoon sing-a-long. At the old Sardis school we would have singing groups on the elementary side. Miss Norma's class would play and sing along with Miss Ruth's class. Miss Kayte Holland (a refined and talented piano instructor) was across the hall. We did not have a piano in the fourth grade, although Miss Janet could play the piano. All we had was a worn out phonograph record player. You know the kind, when a worn out needle hits a scratch place on the black vinyl record, it would repeat the lyrics over and over again. We rewrote several of the sing-a-long songs, like She'll be coming around the mountain, she'll be coming around the mountain, etc. One of my favorite sing-a-longs was "There was a B-i-e-i-e. Nothing like 20 kids singing off key acappella, a group that could not carry a note in a bucket, but we always had fun and everyone was included.

So rest in peace "Miss Janet", Pitts Road and your green 55 Chevy does not seem that far away anymore.

Love

Bobby and Denise Mooney

Denise Mooney - December 19, 2022 at 06:35 PM

NR

So sorry to hear about her passing. She was just a great teacher. I loved to hear her read. She read to us regularly when I was in her classroom. Prayers for the family. A wonderful teacher she was.

Nancy Robertson - December 19, 2022 at 07:50 PM

KE

I was fortunate to have worked with Ms. Presley from 1992-1999 when she retired from Scotts Hill High School as the Senior English teacher. Her students respected and responded to her instructions that were delivered with sincere love for her subject. She truly exemplified a dedicated educator. My sincere sympathies to Mr. Presley, Darryl, Denise, Luke, Chase, and their families.

Karin Eason - December 19, 2022 at 10:58 PM

TA

“ *Condolences from Bobby Ayers and family.*



Teresa Ayers - December 19, 2022 at 06:00 PM