



## Anita Watts Roberts

May 22, 1929 - September 8, 2022

Anita Anne Watts Roberts, 93, died peacefully September 8, 2022, at the Azalea Gardens Assisted Living facility in Tallahassee, Florida. Her son, Millard David Roberts and his wife Kristin (Schreiber) were at her bedside when she passed. Anita's daughter, Anne Chancellor Gibson, and oldest son, Timothy Mason Roberts and his wife Emily (Sellers) had visited and comforted her recently.

Anita's children called her simply, "Mother," but she also went by several names, depending on which sibling, grandchild, niece, nephew, or friend was addressing her: Mamaw, Gega, Nita, "Ole Witch," Mamacita, Nita Bug and Nita Poo. She answered playfully to all. She loved to flirt and play games, and was always willing to join an adventure.

Anita was born May 22, 1929, in Greenville, Alabama, the daughter of Mary Beatrice Chancellor Watts and Charles Timothy Watts. She was the youngest of seven children. After attending Greenville High School she earned a bachelor's degree from Mars Hill University in Mars Hill, North Carolina, then received a master's degree in social work from Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Alabama.

In 1959, while attending New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Anita met Millard Mason Roberts, whom she wed a year later. The couple lived in various southern locales as Millard pursued his medical career – Gainesville, Melbourne, Miami, New Orleans, Lafayette, Birmingham, Dothan, and Tallahassee, where she managed Millard's gastroenterology practice. When

she was unable to make it to the bank to deposit patients' payments, Anita stored the money in the office refrigerator, calling it "cold hard cash."

In addition to raising three children and managing Millard's medical practice, Anita was a dedicated Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Church in Tallahassee. Spanning thirty years, Anita's lessons combined a scholarly approach gained during her time at seminary with a personal vulnerability that endeared her to several generations of women.

In addition to regular trips to Gainesville to see the Florida Gators play, Millard and Anita often traveled well beyond the South. Her stories of their escapades in Costa Rica, East Germany, France, Venezuela, Kenya and Turkey could be spine-tingling.

Anita is predeceased by Millard, her husband of 54 years. She is survived by her children and two daughters-in-law, grandchildren Madeleine, Sumner, Zoe, Collin, Anne Mason, Hannah, Reid, and Josh, sister, Danolyn Cavanaugh Poole, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A visitation is scheduled at First Baptist Church, 108 West College Avenue, Tallahassee, Florida, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Friday, September 16, with a short remembrance of Anita at 2:30. The family will greet guests at Dunklin Funeral Home, 812 West Commerce Street, Greenville, Alabama, on Saturday, September 17, at 10:00 a.m., followed by a graveside memorial service at Greenville's Magnolia Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that Anita's friends and family make contributions to First Baptist Church, Tallahassee. Todd Wahlquist with Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193, [www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com)) is assisting the Roberts family with their arrangements.

# Previous Events

## The Family Will Receive Friends

SEP **16.** 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church  
108 W. College Ave.  
Tallahassee, FL 32301