



Edna Penny Tatum

November 8, 1933 - November 1, 2023

Born in Bay County but having lived all around the world, Edna Penny Tatum, 89, of Tallahassee passed away peacefully in her sleep and went from this life into eternity with our Lord Jesus and her Heavenly Father, on November 1st, 2023, exactly one week prior to her 90th birthday. She was the mother of two children and “Mimi” to 5 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. The matriarch of our family had a simple and abiding faith in her Heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, and she is now at rest in their presence.

The first half of her life was spent as the Air Force wife of James Tatum with whom she travelled the world while raising her two children, Deborah and James Jr. During this time, she lived in Georgia, Delaware, New Hampshire, Illinois, Oklahoma, Virginia, and overseas in Guam, and in Germany. When her children left home, she became a returning student and earned her GED in 1974. Not stopping there, she pursued an Associate degree from Gulf Coast Community College in 1978 and then earned her Bachelor’s degree from the University of West Florida in 1980. Those educational accomplishments by a woman after raising a family were less heard of in those days and is a testament to her initiative. It was this education that led her to a career in social work.

She was nicknamed, "Penny" by her first co-workers at the start of her professional life and that nickname stayed with her since she was proud of her loving family of origin. She worked for years for the State of Florida under contract to the Florida Department of Health as a social worker case manager in the Epilepsy Assistance Program. She worked a client case list of children and adults across several counties in the Panhandle and logged a number of hours each week behind the wheel visiting with her clients. She was responsible for monitoring their medications and access to services and helped many folks have a better quality of life.

She loved all forms of art; the performing arts, music, dancing, and singing, as well as the visual arts. She displayed paintings and small sculptures wherever she lived. In her final months she often serenaded Jim and Kay with songs of her own creation while in the car as they drove to her appointments. This relaxed her and this playful side of Mimi is what will be fondly remembered.

She is survived by her son, Jim Tatum; daughter-in-law, Kay; five grandchildren, Brian Dean, Melissa Schwenn, Sarah Gray, Daniel Tatum and Stephen Tatum; twelve great grandchildren, Lillian, Raegan, Verity, Esther, Reider, Tilley, Adeline, Cordelia, Winifred, Hadley, Declan and Dallas; three sisters and three brothers, and former daughter-in-law Rebecca Tatum and former son-in-law Donald Dean. She was preceded in death by her parents John and Myrtle Penny, her daughter Deborah Dean, three siblings, William, Doris and Donald, and her former husband James Tatum.

A memorial service will be held at Southerland Funeral Home in Panama City on Saturday, November 11th at 11am. Interment will follow the service at the Old Southport Cemetery. In lieu of flowers please make a donation to the

ministry or charity of your choice.

Kelly Barber of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the Tatum family with their arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Old Southport Cemetery

Southport, FL

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV 11. 11:00 AM (CT)

Southerland Funeral Home
100 E. 19th Street
Panama City, FL 32405